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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 225

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

In a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, what's your level of confidence that the Legislature will pass a budget before the Sept. 30 deadline?

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LOCAL



Taste of India moves to a new and more central location on island.

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NATION



Growing support in public opinion polls boosts President Obama's bid.

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LIFE & STYLE



Lindsay Lohan is arrested, this time for leaving the scene of an accident.

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5-pct. cut to allow 72-hour work hours in govt. **PAGE 2**
Habitual offender gets 30 months for assault. **PAGE 3**

Arctic Circle aircraft finally arrives



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Arctic Circle Air president Anthony Pellegrino points to the Britten-Norman aircraft, which arrived on Saipan Wednesday night after four days of travel from Adak, Alaska's southernmost town.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

After several months of delay, Arctic Circle Air will finally start operations soon following the arrival of its aircraft that would transport agricultural produce and other goods within the CNMI and to Guam.

Company president Anthony Pellegrino said the Britten-Norman aircraft, which can carry 2,500 lbs of cargo, arrived at 10:30pm Wednesday night after four days of travel with pilot Ron Sheardown and another co-pilot on board.

From its originating point at Adak, Alaska's southernmost town, the aircraft had layovers in Midway, Majuro, and Pohnpei before heading to Saipan.

Sheardown said in an interview yester-

day that they had "good tailwinds," which made the difference in their journey. However, they had a setback in Pohnpei where "for some reasons, our documents were not to their liking," prompting them to fly to Saipan after dark.

Sheardown, who has close to 60 years of flying and management experience through his own jet and helicopter busi-

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DESPITE FIXING DEFIBRILLATORS

'Immediate jeopardy' status still in effect

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. acted fast and fixed the public hospital's two defibrillators yesterday in response to concerns raised by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Despite this, the Commonwealth Health Center's "immediate jeopardy" status

remains until the corporation satisfies all concerns of Medicare officers, according to board chair Joaquin Torres.

In order to lift the status, Torres said the corporation must come up with a comprehensive action plan and it must be accepted by Medicare. As to when this will happen, Torres said the decision depends on Medicare.

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Hirshbein passes away

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Department of Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirshbein passed away Wednesday night in the Philippines where he underwent operation due to prostate cancer, according to VFW Post 3457 junior vice commander Mariano Fajardo.

Fajardo said he learned from their district commander in Guam that Hirshbein had a heart attack while recuperating from

See HIRSBEIN on Page 4



DOWNED POWER POLES

Crewmembers of Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are seen working on damaged power poles in San Antonio yesterday morning. A tree fell on the power lines yesterday morning due to heavy rains and strong winds. The incident caused power outages in many areas in Kiya 2.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

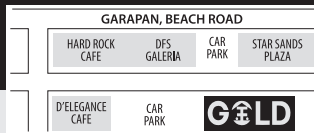
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Local

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TO SKIRT GOVT SHUTDOWN

5-pct. cut to allow 72 hours

»House, Senate may have Saturday back-to-back session

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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 REPORTER

A bicameral legislative panel is poised to include a 5-percent across-the-board cut among government agencies that would allow them to implement 72 work hours per payday as part of efforts to cap spending at \$114 million.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) separately confirmed yesterday that each

expenditure authority will be given the "flexibility" to implement the proposed 5-percent cut in their agencies or programs.

Basa said the conference committee agreed to include the 5 percent across-the-board cut after their latest calculations showed that spending will reach \$119 million, exceeding by \$5 million the projected revenue of \$114 million in fiscal year 2013.

Taimanao and Basa said they are waiting for some government figures before finalizing their decision on the amount of the cut today.

"If we have the 5 percent across-the-board cut, we would be able to achieve a balanced budget, so that we would be able to bring down the projected expenses at \$114 million. Right now we exceed that by \$5 million, which we hope will be taken care of by the across-the-board cut," Basa told Saipan Tribune in an interview at the Legislature at almost 5pm yesterday.

Basa said each expenditure authority will be given flexibility to decide whether to cut from either operations or personnel, or both.

He said if the expenditure authority decides to make the 5 percent cut in personnel, that could mean an eight-hour work cut per payday. This means a 72-hour work per payday instead of the regular 80 hours.

"But we'd put a language in there that should they decide on work hour cuts, it will be no more than eight hours per payday," Basa added.

Many government agencies had just restored the 72-hour work per payday, up from 64 hours, because of some savings prior to the end of fiscal year 2012.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had wanted to restore the 80-hour per payday under his proposed 2013 budget. But because the bicameral committee wants to give more to the Public School System and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., these would stretch the budget further.

"We want to see 80 hours, but

expenditure authorities will be given the flexibility whether to cut work hours or cut on other areas of operation to live with the 5 percent across-the-board cut," Basa added.

Taimanao said some agencies such as the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the Public School System, and Northern Marianas College will be exempted from the cut, along with medical referral and Medicaid reimbursement.

Basa said the House and Senate may hold back-to-back sessions on Saturday to act on the compromise budget bill, if it's finalized today.

The Legislature has until Sept. 30 to pass a budget or the government will have to shut down starting Oct. 1.

The conference committee on the budget bill resumes its meeting this morning. It has six members and two alternates.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan) said he hopes that the House and Senate conferees will be able to set aside politics to produce a "compromise" budget before the government shutdown provision of the NMI Constitution kicks in.

"For the sake of avoiding a shutdown, they should compromise. We already experienced a shutdown in 2010; we don't want a repeat of that," Palacios said.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the administration doesn't want to see another partial shutdown but they would like to see a workable budget bill from the Legislature. Otherwise, it will face a governor's veto.

The Fitial administration earlier said it is "preparing for the worst" and has been putting in place a government shutdown contingency plan, in case no budget is passed and enacted into law by Sept. 30.

The CNMI went through a partial government shutdown in 2010 over a bitter budget deadlock between the House and Senate. That shutdown, which lasted for some 10 days, resulted in having over 1,400 government employees temporarily out of jobs.

Acting Fund administrator OK'd

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood has concurred with the appointment of Lillian Pangelinan as acting administrator of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Tydingco-Gatewood on Wednesday granted Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano's request to approve his appointment of Pangelinan.

Pangelinan is the Fund's chief internal auditor. Razzano made the appointment on Monday.

Razzano said he finds Pangelinan well qualified for the position.

The trustee *ad litem* said the Fund is in need of a competent acting administrator to act as chief executive officer and to oversee its daily operations.

Tydingco-Gatewood appointed Razzano, a Guam tax lawyer, as trustee *ad litem* for the Fund last week.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the law firm of Civile and Tang law firm in Guam will serve as trustee *ad litem* and Razzano will serve as its principal representative. Razzano is a member of the law firm. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Habitual offender gets 30 months for assaulting three

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A habitual offender who beat up a man driving a moped, chased another man, then robbed a woman at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio pleaded guilty and was sentenced to two years and six months in prison with no parole.

Nicolas Villanueva Cabrera, 20, pleaded guilty to two

counts of assault and battery and one count of assault as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed on Cabrera the maximum sentences for each crime totaling two years and six months, with credit for time served. He will be released on July 19, 2014.

"The court believes that defendant is one of those violent

and serious criminal offenders who does pose a dangerous threat to society," said Wiseman in a written order issued yesterday.

In this case, Wiseman said, Cabrera attacked a man on a motor scooter, chased another man, and then pursued a female victim who was also leaving work late at night. The female victim was hurt, robbed, and that Cabrera was

possibly attempting to rape her, Wiseman said.

"This victim's whole life has changed as a result of defendant's attack," Wiseman said.

The victim had to undergo psychological counseling for trauma caused by the attack. "She stayed out of work for three weeks and does not socially and attentively contribute to her family as she used to, as a result of this traumatic event caused by defendant's attack on her. Her nightmares of this event continue," Wiseman said.

Cabrera was tried as a delinquent in 2005 for burglary and

theft, and in 2006 again for burglary, and had one or more cases in 2009 for assault and battery and other offenses.

"For these crimes he only spent a few days in jail along with probations, not enough to deter him for committing future crimes," Wiseman said.

Detective Simon Manacop stated in his report that police received a report on Jan. 7, 2012, at 1:18am, of a disturbance along Beach Road by PIC.

Police learned that Cabrera had accosted a male PIC staff who was driving a scooter and repeatedly punched him. Cabrera then chased another

male PIC employee and followed a female PIC staff, grabbed her left buttock, pulled her shirt, then grabbed the strap of her bag.

Fearing that Cabrera would rape her, the woman shouted for help as she struggled. Both fell on the pavement just behind the woman's car. Cabrera grabbed her bag and ran across the street.

The bag contained a wallet, \$106 cash, credit and debit cards, an ATM card, identification cards, assorted keys, and driver's license.

The woman sustained injuries to the right knee and left elbow.

9th Circuit affirms detention of ex-principal

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the U.S. District Court's order denying bail for former Whispering Palms School principal Thomas Weindl.

The Ninth Circuit judges ruled that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona correctly found that Weindl did not rebut the presumption under the U.S. Code that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure his appearance and the safety of the community.

"We therefore affirm the district court's pretrial detention order," according to two Ninth Circuit judges. One judge dissented.

The judges said they reviewed the district court's factual findings concerning risk of flight and danger to the community under a "differential, clearly erroneous standard."

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Weindl in June 2012 on charges of using a government-owned laptop to review child pornographic materials.

An indictment was subsequently filed charging the 57-year-old Weindl with two counts of receipt of child pornography and two counts of access with intent to view child pornography. Weindl pleaded not guilty.

His trial is scheduled to start on Nov. 27, 2012, at 9am.

Weindl appealed to the Ninth Circuit the federal court's order for his detention pending trial. He sought for the Ninth Circuit's reversal of Manglona's detention order issued on July 17.

Manglona in her order stated that after conducting a detention hearing under the Bail Reform Act, she concludes that facts require that the defendant be detained pending trial.

Manglona found probable cause to believe that Weindl has committed an offense for which a maximum prison term of 10 years or more is prescribed.

The judge determined that Weindl has not rebutted the presumption that no condition will reasonably assure his appearance and the safety of the community.

In the U.S. government's motion, the prosecution cited that as indicated in computer moni-



Weindl

toring reports. Weindl searched for and accessed almost 200 websites containing

images of child pornography. The prosecution said several of the searches conducted and websites accessed specifically reference "eleven year old girl" and "twelve year old" engaging

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'Right-sizing govt hinges on desk audit, private sector jobs'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Amid concerns about possible release of pink slips or termination letters between now and Sept. 30, the Fitial administration said it has no definite time

frame at this time on "right-sizing" the government.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that right-sizing the government would hinge on an expanded desk audit and the availability of jobs in the private sector.

Demapan said the administration would like to expand the desk audit that was done for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Safety "to other departments and agencies, but funding is also an issue."

"One of the things being considered is to seek out available funding opportunities through federal grants to fund such desk audits," he said.

Demapan said what Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said in a recent interview on radio station KWAU is that "he

agrees that the government should be right-sized."

"However, he also stressed the importance of elected leaders working together to strengthen the economic condition of the Commonwealth by the creation of a successful and thriving private sector with more attractive jobs for our people. The governor does not want to simply see government employees laid off without any alternative options at all. Thus, he would like to work towards making sure that there are jobs in the private sector that can embrace government employees who would be affected by the realignment of government services and personnel," Demapan said.

Fitial called on the House and Senate to another leadership summit next week to address the economy, the NMI Retirement Fund, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and utilities.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), in a separate interview yesterday, said the CNMI can learn from Guam's model and experience. He said Guam's financial success is mainly because of its enforcement of its laws and rules.

Palacios cited the Guam government's enforcement of a law that allows automatic deduction from the paychecks of government and private sector individuals for amounts they owe the government.

"Here in the CNMI, we also have other bills that would help generate revenue to help our economy, but they are either sitting idle or opposed for political reasons and without providing alternative solutions," he said.



STOP!

Road traffic is at a standstill as public school students get off a school bus in an area near Northern Marianas College yesterday afternoon. The Public School System said school buses and special vans for children with disabilities may soon run out of fuel for lack of funding, even as the Legislature is still working on a fiscal year 2013 budget that proposes to give PSS \$33 million.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CNMI broadband mapping presentation next week

The Department of Commerce and the Washington-based One Global Economy are inviting interested government agencies, educational institutions, grant writers, and private non-profit organizations to the CNMI Broadband Mapping presentation next week.

The following are next week's confirmed scheduled presentation:

■ Rota: Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, 9am at the Mayor's Conference Room, Office of the Mayor

■ Tinian: Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012, 1:30pm at the Tinian Public Library,

■ Saipan: Thursday, Sept. 27, 9am at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

As the National Broadband Mapping Project comes to a close, One Economy

Corp. representatives will be visiting the CNMI to round up this 18-month long project.

"As you know, CNMI government agencies, together with One Global Economy, have spent these months reaching out to the CNMI community, via surveys, town halls, and online speed tests, to collect data regarding their broadband Internet experience," said Dan Calarco of One Global Economy. "This information will be used to build an online digital map of the broadband reach throughout the U.S. and its territories."

Part of this outreach has included meetings with government agencies and key directors. "Now that the proj-

ect is ending, we'd like to once more present our findings, and use one last opportunity to reach out and make sure that the project closes with as much current data and feedback as possible," said Colin Richardson of One Global Economy.

One Global Economy is preparing its final digital inclusion blueprint and seeks the public's input. "Specifically, One Economy would like to tailor its final report to include data and statistics on computers, Internet, and information technology that will be useful to CNMI agencies and non-profit organizations so that the data can be used in those organizations' applications for federal grant funding," said Calarco. (PR)

STATUS

From Page 1

Torres said that hospital administrator Karen Buettner presented to Medicare surveyors on Wednesday night a preliminary action plan to demonstrate to the visiting officials that the corporation is taking immediate action on the problem and is serious in maintaining its compliance with federal standards.

The federal agency placed the hospital on "immediate jeopardy" status on Tuesday after its team discovered that the hospital has non-working defibrillators and no backup on standby. A defibrillator is an electronic device to treat life-threatening heartbeat irregularities.

Immediate jeopardy indicates that noncompliance with one or more requirements has or is "likely to cause serious injury, harm, impairment, or death."

CHC has 23 days to rectify the deficiency or else Medicare funding will stop flowing to the public hospital.

According to Torres, CHC called an outside contractor to repair three broken defibrillators. It was later learned that Pacific Biomedical Services Inc. only managed to fix two units yesterday as the third one needs spare parts. CHC has more than three defibrillators but many are dilapidated and could not be repaired.

The corporation stopped Pacific Biomedical's contract in February this year due to the lack of budget. Since then, the company only performs certain services for the hospital on a "per need basis" such as when a machine breaks down. Sources disclosed that the corporation has yet to fully fulfill its obligation to the company.

Biomed usually monitors all hospital equipment, including EKG machines, cardiac monitoring machine, blood-pressure apparatus, among oth-

ers. Since this was stopped, employees fear that this may lead to wrong and inaccurate diagnosis.

According to Torres, CMS had emphasized that "this [problem] is not basically about repairing [the equipment]" but to ensure its reliability and accessibility for patients.

Torres said the corporation will buy new defibrillators and funding is now being identified for this purpose. Defibrillators cost around \$12,000 to \$15,000 per unit.

He said that buying new defibrillators is part of the corporation's plan but this is being hindered by its limited resources. Torres pointed out that CEO Juan N. Babauta made a request to buy these equipment in May but this was not processed right away because of the need to first meet the employees' payroll every two weeks.

Each year, the public hospital receives between \$8 million and \$10 million in reimbursements from Medicare.

HIRSHBEIN

From Page 1

the operation.

Fajardo said that Hirshbein was installed in 2011 as the commander of the Department of Pacific Areas, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The Pacific Areas is one of the 54 departments located around the world.

Prior to his appointment as Labor ad-

ministrative hearing officer, Hirshbein served at Labor as legal counsel and as internal affairs officer.

In December 2007, Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas appointed Hirsbein as Labor director.

Hirshbein's last position at Labor was administrative hearing officer.

Last Sept. 6, Hirshbein, through counsel Timothy Bellas, filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition before the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

ARCTIC

From Page 1

ness, described the aircraft as a "good little airplane."

"Everything is running well. There are small, little repairs that need to be done but that's normal," added Sheardown, who was with Pellegrino, agricultural consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera, and local airline staff at the Arctic Circle Air office yesterday to check on the \$400,000-aircraft.

Pellegrino admitted that the company encountered a lot of problems getting the aircraft to Saipan but "now that the plane is here, this ought to put people to work."

He reiterated that the purpose of the Arctic Circle Air is to serve as a "bridge" between Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam by having farmers market and ship their products to and from the islands.

Freight charges, he said, are so expensive that local farmers cannot venture into selling their goods to nearby islands.

"There's a huge market out there and the idea is to get the farmers to grow their products and start selling them,"

said Pellegrino.

According to him, Arctic Circle Air is a "community project" where local farmers are their "subcontractors" as well as "investors."

"They become a part-owner and have a proprietary interest in the company," he added.

Pellegrino disclosed that they are scheduled to meet with some 60 to 70 farmers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota next week to show them the aircraft and to get things going and start operating the aircraft by next month.

He said the aircraft will initially fly three to four times a week. As the demand increases, so will the frequency of flights and the acquisition of a second aircraft, said Pellegrino.

With the aircraft's arrival, Pellegrino and Cabrera expect to see an influx of farmers and other community members investing in Arctic Circle Air and boosting the agriculture industry in the Northern Marianas.

"We are ready to start working," said Cabrera, who will work on getting the farmers to sign individual contracts to supply the produce that would be transported within the islands.

For more information, call Pellegrino at 287-8310 or Cabrera at 483-1785.

Downed power poles cause power outages in San Antonio

One power plant enough to sustain Saipan power needs

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

All power customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Saipan rely on only one power plant but agency officials assured that the plant can meet and even exceed all the electricity needs of its thousands of customers.

CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Power Plant 1 in Lower Base is capable of meeting the power demands of Saipan.

As of Wednesday, CUC had about 60 megawatts of available capacity. In contrast, daily peak demand for power averages at 30MW. The highest was noted on June 6, 2012, at 35.30MW. That means CUC has twice the available capacity than current system demands, Fletcher said.

CUC said the number of its active customers continue to decline, resulting in less power needs and demand.

Based on the power generation status report for Sept. 19, Power Plant 1 is producing 41MW from five diesel engines. Engines 1 and 3 are producing 5.5MW each, while Engines 6, 7, and 8 produce 10MW each. Two more engines are non-operational: Engine 2 has been down since

July 17 because of crankpin bearing seizure while Engine 5 is undergoing maintenance and awaiting parts. Power plant 1 is designed to produce 71.70MW.

Power Plant 2, which is capable of producing 6MW, is on standby. This power plant has four engines, with three units producing 2MW each. One is down since February 2011 due to a defective generator. Power plant 2 is designed to produce 10MW.

Like Power Plant 2, Power Plant 4 is also on standby. It has an available generation of 12.90MW. It was originally designed to produce 14.26MW. All seven engines are operational.

Power plant 4 was recently re-acquired by CUC in July from independent power producer Pacific Marine Industrial Corp. to the tune of \$7.26 million. The contract buyout is projected to help CUC save on costs that will ultimately help bring the power rate down for customers.

CUC's Power Plant 3 has been closed for several years now. This facility, according to CUC officials, was primarily used for wells.

On Rota, CUC also has one power plant while an independent power producer—Tele-source—supplies the power needs of Tinian customers.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Downed power poles resulted in a portion of San Antonio Village—including two schools—going without electricity as early as 6am yesterday.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that a large tree fell following yesterday's heavy rain and strong winds, taking with it the power poles.

At San Antonio Elementary School, power outages hit the school thrice. School principal James Sablan said the duration of each power outage was less than 15 minutes, the first one occurring as soon as classes started at 8am. Uninterrupted power only resumed around 11am.

Sablan said that CUC crews

immediately worked on the downed poles and did an electrical inspection before classes started.

Due to the situation, school staff and teachers temporarily shut down their computers until power was successfully restored around noon.

At Hopwood Junior High School, the power outage occurred only once, just before classes started at 8:30am, and was immediately rectified. It did not have any impact on classes, according to a school employee.

Pacific Islands Club manager Vicky Benavente also confirmed a power outage hitting the resort yesterday morning but said it didn't have any effect on the hotel.

Majority of commercial es-

tablishments in San Antonio said they experienced only one power interruption yesterday, while other residential customers claimed experiencing more than two on the same day.

It was learned that the power interruption affected most parts of Kiya 2, which includes San Antonio, Koblerville, and portions of Chalan Piao.

According to CUC acting executive director Alan Fletcher, a large tree fell on the power lines during the heavy rains and strong winds yesterday. However, he said CUC responded immediately and successfully restored the power supply to affected areas around noon.

While doing the repair work, CUC rerouted power from another feeder to supply power to most customers in the affected

area, Fletcher said.

If customers are still without power, they may call CUC's 24-hour Trouble Desk at 235-7026 to 7032.

The agency's power division manager, Gary Camacho, also reported that minor outages occurred yesterday on Capitol Hill and Susupe due to worn infrastructure and the heavy rainfall and windy conditions taking their toll. Power was quickly restored to both areas.

"As with all of CUC's electrical systems, the need for maintenance and replacement of worn parts and equipment far exceeds our ability to pay for the improvements. We will continue to work on system upgrades in order to ensure reliable power to consumers," added Fletcher.

Public hearing on chief justice nominee after budget passage

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations will be holding a public hearing on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's chief justice nominee once the Legislature passes a fiscal year 2013 budget.

According to committee chair Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) yesterday, the priority now is "passing the budget" to avoid a government shutdown on Oct. 1.

"That's the recommendation at this time, right after both houses passes the 2013 budget," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cruz is the alternate Senate member in the conference committee on the 2013 budget bill.

If no budget is passed and signed into law by Sept. 30, the government will shut down until a spending measure is in place.

On Sept. 13, the governor nominated associate justice Alejandro C. Castro to serve as chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court, a post he has been occupying in an acting capacity since the late chief justice Miguel S. Demapan stepped

down last year.

Castro's nomination requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said it will be up to the EAGI Committee now when to call for a public hearing on Castro's nomination.

Fitial's failure to nominate a chief justice since October 2011 as required by the NMI Constitution is one of the allegations in a milestone resolution impeaching him.

House Resolution 17-111 lists 16 articles of impeachment against Fitial for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), main author of the resolution, said the governor's nomination of Castro "does not remedy" the allegation of neglect of duty against Fitial by not appointing a chief justice more than 90 days since the post was vacated, or from October 2011 up until at least the filing of the impeachment resolution on Aug. 27, 2012.

If and when confirmed by the Senate, Castro will serve an eight-year term.

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Taste of India moves to a new site in Garapan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Taste of India, the only authentic Indian restaurant in the

CNMI, has moved to a new and more central location on island.

Previously located along Middle Road next to IT&E, Taste of India is now across Jonny's Bar and Godfather's Bar in Garapan.

The move to a downtown location was officially completed last weekend, said restaurant manager Aji Thomas Mandumpala.

Besides the convenient location, Taste of India also features a dining space large enough to accommodate up to 50 guests.



The new facade of Taste of India, which moved to a new location across from Jonny's Bar and Godfather's Bar in Garapan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



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Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

The restaurant's interior will be decorated soon with intricate *kathakali* designs depicting the rich cultural heritage of the South Asian country, while Bollywood songs and television shows and movies will be played.

"We're very excited about our new location, and a lot of our regular patrons have given us positive feedbacks about it," he said. "Many locals still don't know about Taste of India or haven't tried our food but we hope to change that with our new location."

Even with the change of setting, Mandumpala assures Taste of India patrons the same quality and pocket-friendly prices. He said that the restaurant's owner, which took over management last year, wants to maintain reasonably priced items in their menus.

In fact, Taste of India's weekday lunch buffet is a dollar cheaper at the new location for only \$9.95 per person, which includes unlimited iced tea. Dinner buffet is available on Saturdays at \$11.95 per person, inclusive of one beer or glass of wine. Vegetarian buffet is also available during lunch from Monday to Friday and dinner on Saturday for \$2 less the regular buffet price.

"All over the world, Indian food is expensive because of the ingredients used to prepare them. On Saipan where prices have all gone up and the economy is down, Taste of India continues to offer Indian food that's affordable," said Mandumpala.

Taste of India is also currently working on introducing more items to their menu like kebabs, tandoori, and even fruity milkshakes to give diners a wider selection.

Taste of India also offers Happy Hour every day from 5pm to 7pm, during which beers are only \$3.50 and cocktail drinks cost \$5.

The restaurant hosts parties for all occasions, offers food delivery for a minimal fee, and provides pick-up and drop-off services to customers staying at hotels. Major credit cards accepted. For reservations or more information, call 233-8448.

Over 100 highs school students take part in career fair

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System had another successful career fair last Wednesday, with over 100 students and nearly 30 business and government organizations taking part in the event at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Tyce Mister, teacher and coordinator for the PSS High School Cooperative Education & Training Program at Mari-

anas High School, said that 140 high school students and 26 companies and agencies participated, exposing graduating students to the varied career options on island.

MHS' co-op program fielded 44 students, 53 came from Kagman High School, and 43 were special education students.

Mister said he is very pleased with the support demonstrated by the companies and the eye-opening experiences for the

students. "An enormous thank you to all our participating businesses. I am very pleased with the career fair's success."

The Cooperative Program, sometimes referred to as "Co-Op," is designed to help prepare students for the job market. The program consists of both Cooperative Education on campus and Cooperative Training off campus. Students first learn how

to complete résumés, applications, interviews, and personal development, then gain work experience by participating as a "trainee" at an off campus business organization. The training hours are generally during the afternoon school hours.

According to Mister, students are encouraged to complete three interviews before making a training site commitment. He said any business that would like to host a student trainee

may contact him at 237-3248.

Companies and agencies that participated in this week's career fair were Blue Continent Communications dba KKMP, CNMI Judiciary (Adult Probation, Clerk of Courts, Family Court, Law Revision Commission), CNMI Public School System, Delta Management Corp., DEQ, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hard Rock Café, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, Joeten Ent., Joeten

Kiyu Public Library, Law Office of Robert Torres, Louis Vuitton, Marianas Visitors Authority, Michelle Corp., Medical Associates of the Pacific, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Pacific Airport Services, Pacific Islands Club, POI Aviation, Saipan World Resort, Thompson Law Office, Triple J Saipan, Inc., and the Workforce Investment Agency.

Group seeks to revive Girl Scouts NMI

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After years of inactivity, efforts are under way to revive the Girl Scouts of the NMI.

The non-profit volunteer group is set to host an open house registration at 5:30pm on Sept. 27, Thursday, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

President Tania P. David said they are looking for girls who want to become girl scouts and learn valuable life skills while having fun.

Girl scouting provides girls with opportunities for fun and friendship while fostering the development of leadership skills and self-esteem through activities in science and technology, business and economic literacy, and outdoor and environmental awareness.

In a statement, David said they are also encouraging par-

ents and family members to register as adult volunteers and help with troop activities and other events.

"We will be providing all the necessary information at the open house and would like to invite all interested participants to attend," said David. "We are looking forward to a great 'Year of the Girl' by establishing active troops and volunteers."

David said the local revival of the Girl Scouts is timely as the Girl Scouts of the USA is celebrating 100 years this year with "so much exciting activities and opportunities for our young and adult volunteers."

The largest organization for girls in the world, Girl Scouts of the USA aims to "build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place."

For more information, email girlscoutnmi@gmail.com.

Saipan Next Top Chef winner to grace flea market fundraiser

Marianas Resort & Spa's Emmanuel Pacha, the 2012 Saipan Next Top Chef, will grace a bazaar and flea market fundraiser on Sept. 29 at the ABA Building in Gualo Rai.

The fundraiser, which will be from 7am to 5pm, is organized by the Empty Vessel Foundation

to support its programs here in the CNMI, Kenya, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. Vendors who want to join the bazaar can register for only \$15. Hot lunch from 2012's Saipan Next Top Chef winner is also being sold for \$5. For more information, call Rose Smith at 483-0162. (PR)



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CNMI 2010 GDP growth rate up 2.3 pct.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, through the Department of Commerce, welcomed the Bureau of Economic Analysis' release of the CNMI's Gross Domestic Product report for 2010. Fitial was elated to learn that the CNMI's real GDP, adjusted to remove price changes, increased by 2.3 percent compared to the revised -18.8 percent decrease just a year ago. In comparison, the United States overall real GDP, excluding the territories, increased by 2.4 percent.

BEA deputy director Dr. Brian Moyer, economist and program manager Aya Hamano, and Nicole Mayerhauser, chief of the National Income and Wealth Division, were on hand Tuesday morning to per-

sonally present the latest GDP report to Fitial.

GDP measures the output of goods and services produced by the private and public sectors. It is the primary indicator with which to measure the state of the economy at a certain period in time. For the first time, the CNMI's report includes GDP figures by industry, compensation by industry, and detailed consumer spending.

"With the new additions to the CNMI GDP report, we are able to hone down a bit more on the source of increases within the GDP," said Fitial. "This positive increase largely reflects increases in consumer spending, export of services, the tourism sector,

and territorial government consumption, expenditures and gross investments."

After declining for six consecutive years, largely due to declines in the garment manufacturing industry, Fitial is extremely pleased that the CNMI's economy saw much improvement in 2010.

"Lt. Governor Inos and I are proud that our administration has worked hard to find ways to rebound from the economic crisis in the region. Today, we are truly delighted to see that under our watch, we have delivered promising results for our economy and our people," added Fitial. "Even tourism services increased because of the number of visitors to the islands, offsetting continued

declines in exports of goods."

Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, who joined BEA officials in the briefing with the governor, lauded the BEA for its continued support and efforts to effectively track the CNMI's GDP on an annual basis.

"We appreciate the timely release of the GDP report and we continue to work with the BEA and the Department of Interior to assist the CNMI with necessary technical assistance and/or guidance to speed up future report releases to within a year, if not less," stated Igisomar.

To access the full report, refer to the department's website: <http://commerce.gov.mp>. (Office of the Governor)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 21, 1999

Continental cuts last direct flight to Japan

Continental Micronesia is dropping its Nagoya-Saipan service on October 1, 1999, the airline's last remaining direct flight between Japan and the CNMI, raising fears that it may hinder efforts by the Marianas Visitors Authority to revive the island's ailing tourism economy. In 1998, the traffic in the Nagoya-Saipan direct service declined 24 percent and has continuously fell this year, said Wally Dias, staff to the vice president for sales and marketing. From January to July 1999, it dipped 20 percent. This leaves Japan Airlines and Northwest Airlines as the only remaining carriers that maintain direct service from key cities in Japan to Saipan.

Diversions of 'boat people' not meant to deny asylum—INS

The use of Tinian as temporary holding area for illegal Chinese immigrants caught attempting to enter Guam is not an attempt to deny asylum to those who have legitimate application, according to federal officials. "That was not at all an effort to prevent people from seeking asylum. We devoted great level of resources," said Bo Cooper, general counsel of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. He said INS deployed asylum officers to Tinian to screen the more than 600 illegal aliens who were sent to temporary shelters on the island after the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted their boats near Guam.

September 21, 2000

JAL to add 1,100 seats next month

Despite the travel advisory issued by the Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs listing Saipan as an unsafe destination for its travelers, the country's flag carrier is dispatching four extra charter flights next month. Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the agency has been informed by Japan Airlines that the carrier has scheduled four extra flights originating out of Nagoya and Kansai to Saipan in October. JAL will be deploying DC-10 aircraft in all of the four charter flights which are expected to provide an additional 1,124 airline seats for Japanese travelers to the Northern Marianas.

Youth Congress sets run-off elections Monday

The Youth Congress will hold run-off elections Monday for two youth senatorial seats left vacant after election results reflected a deadlock between contenders vying for the positions. Write-in candidates under Precinct no. 3 Keola Wabul and Jesse Elameto earned an equal number of votes while certified candidates Jovon Charfauros and Antonio Castro are also caught in a deadlock. According to Youth Congress Administrative Officer Mike Evangelista, a fresh slate of candidates may vie for the last precinct no. 3 senatorial seat during the Sept. 25 open run-off elections which will accommodate all write-in candidates.

September 21, 2001

\$12M drop in government's revenue collection feared

The CNMI government is bracing itself for a possible decrease of \$12 million in the revenue it expects to collect in Fiscal Year 2002. Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen said that due to the present situation arising from the terrorist attacks in the US mainland, around \$12 million of the revenues they expected to generate in Fiscal Year 2002 may not be realized. "With what happened in the United States, it appears that we will not be able to collect the additional revenues," Nielsen told reporters. She explained that, when Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio submitted the \$229 million Fiscal Year 2002 budget to the Legislature, there were \$12 million in new revenues that the administration expected to get from new economic programs and the expected growth in tourism.

CNMI's immunization rate one of the nation's highest

The Northern Marianas has an immunization rate higher than most US states, at a figure ranging from 85 to 90 percent, the Department of Public Health disclosed. DPH Medical Health Director Dr. Richard Brostrom and Immunization Coordinator Mariana Sablan attributed the positive finding to three main factors, one of them being the local health department's efficient tracking system. The tool allows DPH to keep tabs of school-age children who acquire shots in defense against different types of illnesses. Secondly, rosters of school children submitted annually to the health department also make it possible for the agency to have updated immunization records.

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Kruataia Coconut Milk 99¢	Argo Corn Starch 99¢ 1 LB.	Gold Medal Flour \$3²⁵ 37.02 OZ.	Royal Spaghetti Noodle \$2⁴⁹ 1 kg.	White Sugar \$2⁷⁹ 2 KG.	Lotus Rice \$25⁹⁹ 50lbs.	Vega Shrimps \$5⁷⁵ /LB.	Kikkoman Soy Sauce \$4²⁵ 1.6 L.	King Chef Vegetable Oil 5gal \$31⁹⁹	Sunkist \$6⁹⁹ CASE
Country Lime Lemonade, Tang Orange, Kool-Aid \$7⁹⁹	Coffee Mate \$7⁹⁹ 50 OZ.	Folgers Coffee \$11⁹⁹ 33.3 OZ.	Maxwell Coffee Mix \$7⁹⁹ 100CT.	Fresco Vegetable Oil \$9⁴⁹ 1 GAL.	Wilkins Water \$2⁹⁹ 6000ML	Saipan Ice Water 500ml \$5⁹⁹ CASE	Ace Butane Gas \$22⁹⁹ CASE	Ruby Kist Orange & Apple Juice \$3⁹⁹ 64oz.	

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Head & Shoulders Shampoo \$7⁹⁹ 23OZ.	Huggies Big \$18⁹⁹ BOX	Luvs Big \$16⁹⁹ BOX	Bounty Paper Towel \$19⁹⁹ 15 Rolls	Charmin Ultra Strong Tissue \$6⁹⁹ 24 Rolls	Charmin Basic Toilet Paper \$8²⁹ 12 ROLLS	Foam Plates \$3²⁹ 50 CT
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Opinion

Hafa Adahi!

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Volume XXII, Issue No. 225Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

Wrongheaded ideology

GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney's secretly recorded comments about Americans who don't pay income taxes and Palestinians who don't want peace may finally convince Republicans that he's as conservative as he claims to be. Although blunter than usual, his remarks at a private fundraiser in May reinforce themes that Romney has been sounding in the campaign about President Obama promoting dependency on government benefits and taking the wrong approach to the Middle East. Unfortunately, they also combine facts and errant assumptions in a wrongheaded ideology.

Romney's comments at the \$50,000-a-head fundraiser in Boca Raton in May, made two points that have caught the attention of partisans on both sides. The first is that the 47 percent of Americans who pay no income taxes are people who are "dependent upon government...who believe that they are entitled to healthcare, to food, to housing, to you name it." The second is that "the Palestinians have no interest whatsoever in establishing peace, and that the pathway to peace is almost unthinkable to accomplish."

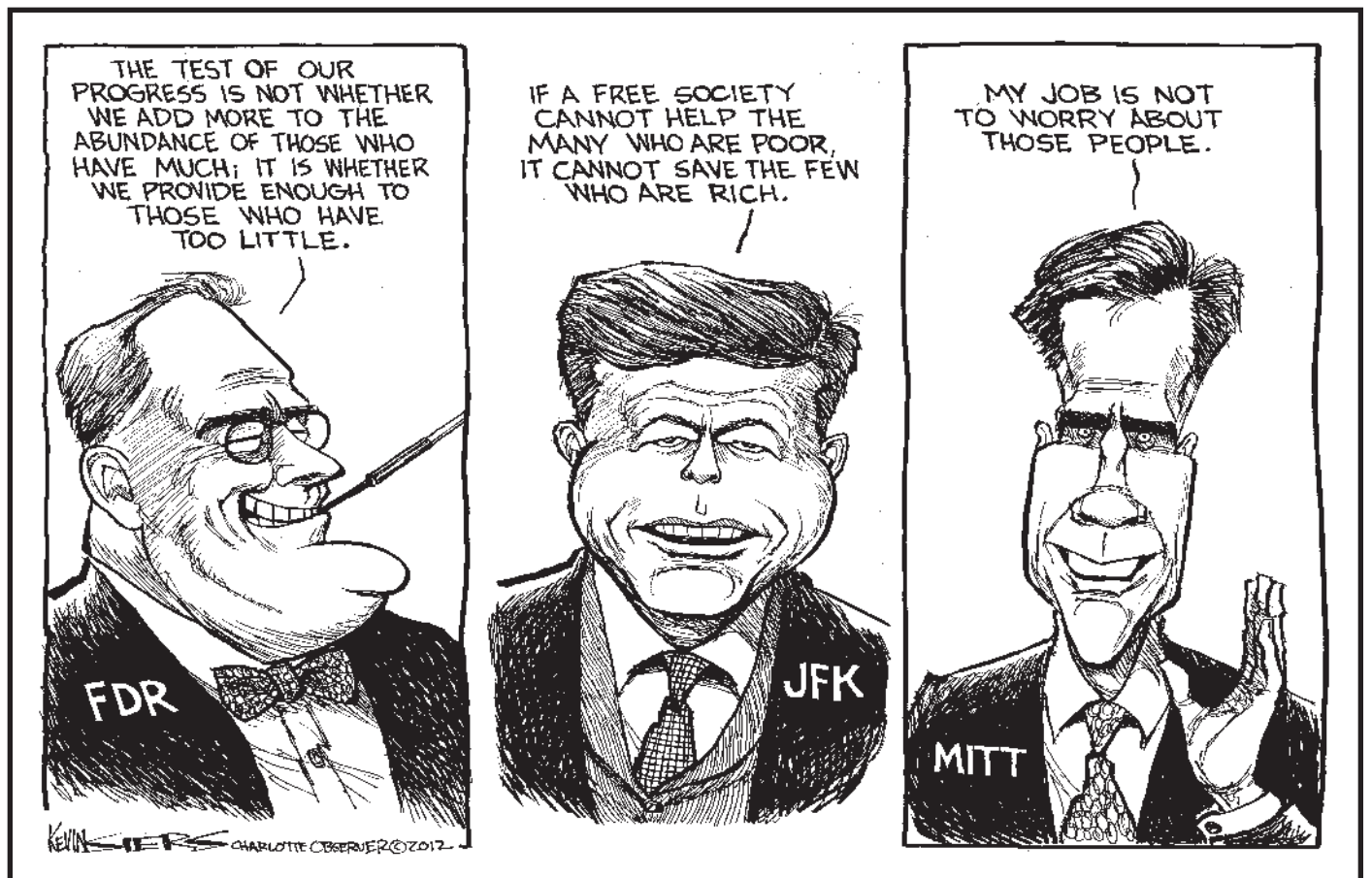
It's a startling truth that roughly half of the people in America don't pay income taxes. But most of the people in that group aren't welfare queens—they're seniors, teenagers and the working poor, all of whom Congress has deliberately favored in the tax code. The tax credit for the working poor has been particularly effective in helping people climb out of poverty. And while it's not unreasonable to propose that everyone pay at least some tax on incomes, it's worth remembering that the vast majority of Americans pay federal taxes in one form or another, such as gasoline or Social Security taxes.

There's a good debate to be had on how to make safety net programs more efficient. But Romney seems to blame the surge in beneficiaries on a culture of entitlement rather than the sharp economic downturn and high unemployment (along with a growing number of baby boomers retiring). Most of the working-age, able-bodied people rescued by federal and state safety net programs rebound economically, and do so in a relatively short period of time.

As for Romney's comments on the Middle East, the peace process has frustrated many an occupant of the Oval Office, but it's depressingly defeatist for a candidate to give up on one of his most important foreign policy responsibilities even before he's elected. Nor is it fair to put all the blame for the crisis on the Palestinians or to insist that Israel has a monopoly on truth or justice. The newly adopted Republican Party platform implicitly acknowledges this by calling for a two-state solution, as the party has long advocated.

The Boca Raton video has helped Romney in some circles by shoring up his conservative bona fides. But it also showed him to be strangely ignorant about who pays income taxes and receives federal benefits, and dishearteningly willing to punt on Middle East peace.

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'Innocence of Muslims' doesn't meet free-speech test

In one of the most famous First Amendment cases in U.S. history, *Schenck v. United States*, Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. established that the right to free speech in the United States is not unlimited. "The most stringent protection," he wrote on behalf of a unanimous court, "would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic."

Holmes' test—that words are not protected if their nature and circumstances create a "clear and present danger" of harm—has since been tightened. But even under the more restrictive current standard, *Innocence of Muslims*, the film whose video trailer indirectly led to the death of U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens among others, is not, arguably, free speech protected under the U.S. Constitution and the values it enshrines.

According to initial media investigations, the clip whose most egregious lines were apparently dubbed in after it was shot, was first posted to YouTube in July by someone with the user name "Sam Bacile." The Associated Press reported tracing a cell phone number given as Bacile's to the address of a Californian of Egyptian Coptic origin named Nakoula Basseley Nakoula. Nakoula has identified himself as coordinating logistics on the production but denies being Bacile.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, when the video failed to attract much attention, another Coptic Christian, known for his anti-Islamic activism, sent a link to reporters in the U.S., Egypt and elsewhere on Sept. 6. His email message promoted a Sept. 11 event by anti-Islamic pastor Terry Jones and included a link to the trailer.

The current standard for restricting speech—or punishing it after it has in fact caused violence—was laid out in the 1969 case *Brandenburg v. Ohio*. Under the narrower guidelines, only speech that has the intent and the likelihood of inciting imminent violence or lawbreaking can be limited.

Likelihood is the easiest test. In Afghanistan, where I have lived for most of the past decade, frustrations at an abusive government and at the apparent role of international forces in propping it up have been growing for years. But those frustrations are often vented in religious, not political, terms, because religion is a more socially acceptable, and safer, rationale for public outcry.

In the summer of 2010, Jones announced his intent to publicly burn a copy of the Muslim holy scripture, the Quran, that Sept. 11. He was eventually dissuaded by a number of religious and government officials, including Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who called him to say his actions would put the lives of U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan at risk. On the Joint Chiefs of Staff, where I worked at the time, consensus was that the likelihood of violence was high.

When Jones did in fact stage a public Quran burning on March 20, 2011, riots broke out in Afghanistan, killing nearly a dozen people and injuring 90 in the beautiful, cosmopolitan northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Seven of the dead were U.N. employees; the rest were Afghans.

By SARAH CHAYES
Los Angeles Times

Sarah Chayes, former special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a resident associate at the Carnegie Endowment and a contributing writer to the Los Angeles Times.

In Afghanistan, and in all of the Arab nations in transition, an extremist fringe is brawling for power with a more pluralistic majority. Radicals pounce on any pretext to play on religious feeling. I could pick out the signs of manipulation in Afghanistan—riots that started on university campuses where radicalized Pakistani students abound, simultaneous outbreaks in far-flung places, the sudden appearance of weapons. By providing extremists in Libya and elsewhere such an opportunity, the makers of *Innocence of Muslims* were playing into their hands.

As for imminence, the timeline of similar events after recent burnings of religious materials indicates that reactions typically come within two weeks. Nakoula's video was deliberately publicized just before the sensitive date of Sept. 11, and could be expected to spark violence on that anniversary.

While many First Amendment scholars defend the right of the filmmakers to produce this film, arguing that the ensuing violence was not sufficiently imminent, I spoke to several experts who said the trailer may well fall outside constitutional guarantees of free speech. "Based on my understanding of the events," First Amendment authority Anthony Lewis said in an interview Thursday, "I think this meets the imminence standard."

Finally, much First Amendment jurisprudence concerns speech explicitly advocating violence, such as calls to resist arrest, or videos explaining bomb-making techniques. But words don't have to urge people to commit violence in order to be subject to limits, says Lewis. "If the result is violence, and that violence was intended, then it meets the standard."

Indeed, Justice Holmes' original example, shouting "fire" in a theater, is not a call to arms. Steve Klein, an outspoken anti-Islamic activist who said he helped with the film, told al-Jazeera television that it was "supposed to be provocative." The egregiousness of its smears, the apparent deception of cast and crew as to its contents and the deliberate effort to raise its profile in the Arab world a week before 9/11 all suggest intentionality.

The point here is not to excuse the terrible acts perpetrated by committed extremists and others around the world in reaction to the video, or to condone physical violence as a response to words—any kind of words. The point is to emphasize that U.S. law makes a distinction between speech that is simply offensive and speech that is deliberately tailored to put lives and property at immediate risk.

The flying waitress

With so many people in a tizzy about so many things these days, I am choosing the “chill out” option. Feel free to join me. Pull up a beach chair and open up the cooler. And let’s thumb to a random page in the life of an airport bum. Why not?

I used to seek refuge from an office career by hanging out at a small airport. I’d give flying lessons in airplanes, air tours in helicopters, and would basically scrape along doing various and sundry flying chores.

Well, one day, a prospective student walked into the flight school that served as the roost for me and my ragtag clique of airport bums. The prospective student was about 25 years old or so. She was making the rounds of flight schools to figure out the cost of getting a private pilot’s license. As we stood at the lobby counter discussing the topic I noticed that her hands were covered in dark grease, the kind you really have to scrub to remove.

I guess she noticed me noticing.

“I just changed the clutch in my pickup truck,” she explained.

Well, now, that’s pretty cool, I thought. So we shifted from airplane talk to car talk. And she did, indeed, know what she was talking about. Her brother had helped with the clutch job, but she was obviously no mere onlooker in the process.

If you can jack-up a pickup truck in your driveway, change the clutch, and get it all buttoned back together and back on the road without squishing yourself in the process, you’ve certainly got more than enough motivation and competence to fly an airplane.

Of course, something else you’ve got to have is a few grand to drop on lessons. A few grand isn’t much if you’ve got it. But it’s everything if you don’t. And this gal didn’t.

She worked as a waitress at a down-scale restaurant just up the street. It was going to take quite a pile of quarters from those cheap-skate customers to be able to reach flying altitude. She’d have to save for about 300 years, I reckon.

I’d give an occasional free lesson to someone who seemed deserving if they were broke. After all, life has a way of grinding down dreams inch by inch, until, decades later, there’s nothing but dust remaining. I can’t fix that fact, but I can put an occasional thumb in its eye.

So no respecting airport bum would allow a waitress who fixes her own transmission to leave the airport with mere dust to show for it. It was a nice day for flying anyway, so I gave the waitress a free flying lesson. After the flight, as we taxied the airplane back to the flight line, she asked who all those people in the school lobby were.

“Mostly guys who own airplanes,” I told her. “They just sort of

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit *Ed Stephens Jr.* at *EdStephensJr.com*.
His column runs every Friday.



hang out, drink coffee, and talk about flying.”

“Those guys? They don’t look like they can afford to own airplanes. Most look as ratty as the customers where I work,” she said.

I suppose when you live off tips you see people through the lens of financial practicality. Indeed, for a quick eyeball appraisal of solvency, I’ll take a waitress over a CPA any day.

“I didn’t say they could afford airplanes,” I said. “I said they own airplanes.”

“That doesn’t make sense,” she said.

Neither does giving away free flying to random people who can’t afford to be customers, I thought. But I didn’t say anything. You can teach flying, but you can never explain it.

After that, the waitress would drop by the school regularly. She’d drink coffee with the airport bums, and she could discuss pistons, valves, and electrical systems with the best of them. And by making herself generally useful when it came to cleaning spark plugs, washing airplanes, and such, the pilots often let her tag along, sometimes even flying out to the palm desert for lunch.

Alas, despite my best efforts to avoid one, I wound up saddled with a real job, and off I went.

As for the waitress, I don’t think she ever got a license. She seemed content to just be part of the airport clique and tag along when she could.

Somewhere in the world, I imagine that right about now a kid is looking at a photo album saying, “Grandma, who is that lady flying the airplane?”

“That’s me,” says Grandma. “I helped fly that Cherokee 180 airplane to Palm Springs.”

“Wow. That’s neat! You were a pilot?”

“No. I was a waitress.”

“Grandma, that doesn’t make any sense.”

“I know.”

And to think it all began because of a bad clutch and greasy hands. If that makes any sense to you at all, you’re probably an airport bum at heart.

Gone: Commission on Federal Laws

In search of ways to rebuild what’s now a dysfunctional relationship with the federal government, some have asked if the Commission on Federal Laws could be revived and reconstituted in order to take up issues with Washington.

The commission’s role, however, was replaced immediately when the CNMI was granted its non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress. This office now handles basically all issues pertaining to our relationship with the feds.

Are there substantive issues I find disconcerting?

Definitely!

There’s the 100-plus major regulations under the Obama administration that would turn the federal government into an “administrative state.” Federal departments and agencies would turn into super federal organs or the fourth branch of government. They are allowed to write regulations and impose them at will. What they impose isn’t subject to congressional oversight or judicial review. In the process, we would be answering to bureaucrats we’ve never elected as the new lords of state governments and territories.

But this may have been remedied by Congress. New legislation would mandate all federal agencies whose regulations would cost \$100 million or more to turn them over to the two chambers for a more thorough review. We should be grateful the measure that reverts legislative authority to Congress was approved. It is intended to limit the proliferation of lordly agencies staffed by people we’ve never elected, met, or will never meet, dictating policies at will “without the consent of the governed.”

The federal takeover of immigration and minimum wage did nothing but devastate a fragile island economy. This was imposed without a thorough study of their impact. Its imposition has sent the multitude into misery land. Has anybody seen Uncles George and Alan?

It’s a well-orchestrated federal agenda to cripple this administration. It may have succeeded but it didn’t blur our prism to quickly detect why and how it has wreaked havoc, especially against the innocent and powerless villagers. The feds threw a bone to hungry islanders and it has also succeeded in seeing us tango over impeachment and other collateral issues.

Gladly, this isn’t the promise of the founding fathers that wanted limited government over “federal state” where the principle of the “consent of the governed” is compromised by liberal progressives. This is the group that has followed Obama’s loose wagon careening away from the foundation of our national constitution. It has to change this November.

The spread of devastation is now the daily meals of our people. Are we supposed to say thank you, Uncle Sam? The action of the feds on this score did nothing but deepen the thick bad karma upon those who saw fit to toy with their own vision of a zoo composed of people.

■■■

Presidential contest

Regardless of ideological view, it’s troubling the assessment why Obama should be re-elected or turn his term in office into his own words, “a one-term proposition.” Those who voted for him in 2008 have morphed into what’s known as the “buyers’ remorse,” turning to Romney and saying Obama simply made too many failed promises.

Obama has succeeded in diverting attention from his very dismal record on the economy and jobs creation by resorting to distractions. As Obama whips Romney whimsically, the GOP seems dumbfounded, incapable of rebuking or rebutting Mr. O’s distractions with a set of facts. Unless Romney and camp take the fight

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



directly to Obama to bring him back to real issues, it’s a wonderful trip to defeat this November.

“I have not heard any Republican official or candidate even try to answer a standard claim of the Democrats, that ‘deregulation’ is the reason the housing market went haywire and brought down the economy. Therefore, according to the Democrats, Republicans who want to restore a free market are just trying to ‘go back to the same policies that got us into this mess in the first place.’ That sounds very persuasive, if you don’t know the facts—and it sounds like pure hogwash if you do,” said Dr. Thomas Sowell, senior fellow at Hoover Institute.

“I know it can be done because I have done it. But so long as Republicans don’t seem to feel any urgency about refuting the Democrats’ claim that they just want to help the rich at the expense of the poor, they are courting defeat on Election Day. Why lose to a lie because you didn’t bother to explain the truth?”

“Some of the time that was spent at the Republican convention trying to ‘humanize’ Mitt Romney could have been better spent debunking the Democrats’ talking points. After all, we are not going to be voting for a Buddy-in-Chief in the White House, but for someone with some clear ideas about what this country needs—and who is willing to share those ideas with us in plain English,” said Dr. Sowell.

I am a believer in the premises set by the land of the law, but Obama has succeeded ripping the intent of the Constitution to fit his redistributionist policies. This debate started over 200 years ago and it goes to and fro all these years. It takes an understanding of the first principles to return our country back to the plans of the founding fathers. The derivative concept known as the “free enterprise” system has worked well for the country, including disproving the socialistic agenda of liberal progressives bent to making governance heavily reliant upon the government.

I’m not knocking the redistributionist policy altogether, given the help it extends to the needy. But it has increased the number of food stamp recipients by another 15 million, many of whom are in for a ride on the welfare gravy train. This, while the number of taxpayers decline. The free enterprise system is still the better paradigm instead of supplanting it with total redistributionist policy. It grants people the opportunity to return to self-respect and self-sufficiency by way of finding meaningful employment.

■■■

We all have our individual ideas for the ideal CNMI non-voting delegate, specifically what this person ought to be doing in Washington. Why not, each of us deserves time under the blue skies of paradise. But I’m equally aware that Washington is the most powerful seat of government the world over. Unless you have a network of like-minded powerful people in and out of Congress to peddle your wares, you’re basically lost in the shuffle. Start connecting with national party officers.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Respect

Mr. Ambrose Bennett makes frequent use of his freedom of speech on these pages. So it is sad to see him attack Mr. JP Attao for using that very same right of free speech.

It is especially troubling to see Mr. Bennett attack this man, who put on the uniform of his country and went twice to war to defend the freedom of speech for all of us.

Surely, Mr. Attao—and all who have served to protect our nation—has earned the right to speak his mind without being condemned for doing so.

I do understand how Mr. Bennett feels, being criticized here in the letters to the editor. He has criticized me for the work that I do for our people. But I respect Mr. Bennett’s right to free speech and believe in the wisdom of the *Variety’s* and *Tribune’s* readers to judge what he says. I see no need to respond.

But I cannot stand by silently when Ambrose takes aim at one of our veterans.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands have given me the extraordinary privilege to represent them in the United States Congress. There I have met many remarkable men and women, not just politicians, but people who have put their lives on the line for our country. Patriots like John McCain, who spent years as a prisoner of war; like Daniel K. Inouye, who gave his arm in combat; like John Lewis, who suffered beatings and saw friends die in the civil rights movement; like Gabby Giffords, shot down while listening to her constituents’ concerns.

If I have learned anything from the opportunity to know these individuals, it is that citizens cannot take their rights and freedoms for granted. Sometimes we have to stand up to those who would silence us or steal our democracy with despotism.

So I congratulate both Mr. Bennett and Mr. Attao for refusing to be silent and for saying what they think. We are all fortunate to live in a nation where we have this freedom.






I only ask that Mr. Bennett show Mr. Attao the same respect for his right of speech as the rest of us show for Mr. Bennett.

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Showers	▲84 ▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼74
Majuro	Showers	▲87 ▼79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼50
Beijing	Showers	▲78 ▼56
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼46
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼66
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼76
New York	Sunny	▲75 ▼61
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼68
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼48
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼66
Rome	Sunny	▲78 ▼61
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲71 ▼50
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲77 ▼60
Tokyo	Showers	▲81 ▼70
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲82 ▼64

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:20 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
1:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:39 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance centered northwest of Yap at 14N136E is the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present near the center between 11N and 15N from 132E to 138E. For more information, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW. A monsoon trough extends eastward from 13N130E through the disturbance at 14N136E then continues southeastward to end south of Pohnpei at EQ159E. Convergent west winds south of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk or south of a line from 6N140E to 6N151E. Convergent trades north of the trough are causing scattered showers near Guam within 200 miles of a line from 14N141E to 11N145E. An upper-level trough curves southeastward from 25N141E through a low centered at 18N155E then continues northeastward through another low centered north of Wake Island at 23N165E to beyond 25N at 166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of Guam between 11N and 15N from 149E to 158E and also near Wake Island within 200 miles of a line from 18N161E to 19N167E. A surface trough stretches eastward from 4N167E over Butaritari to beyond the date line at 6N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found south of Majuro and east of Kosrae or south of a line from 6N166E to 8N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:06 AM	6:14 PM	Today	10:52 AM	10:31 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM	Saturday	11:53 AM	11:31 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM	Sunday	12:50 PM	
Monday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM	Monday	1:43 PM	12:30 AM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM	Tuesday	2:33 PM	1:28 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 11, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5		UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)					ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5		UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5	
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP	
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily		UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily	
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily		UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7		DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7	
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1		OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7	
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily		OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)					PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)				
UZ608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7		OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN		DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT	
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM	
					UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT		OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM						
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN		UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
					OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN		OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7	
					OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM		UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana					ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency		
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily		
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily		
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily		
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily		
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily		
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily		
Rota-Saipan									
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan					
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily		
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily		
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily		
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily		
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily		
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily		
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily		
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily		
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily		
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily		
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily		
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily		
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily		

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Something to ponder

The truth will prevail and sometimes the truth hurts but you can't always turn a blind eye, can you? Or do you just have to? I certainly understand not to bite the hand that feeds me but lately that hand has been shoving rotten and spoiled stuff down my throat that I cannot take it anymore. Then I am told I must cooperate and allow him to continue? That stopping him now would not solve any problem. I am choking and I disagree completely.

I know, and so does everyone, that we cannot fix our problems overnight. Even the governor took seven years to ruin it! In the first place he created the Covenant Party then ditched them when he did not need them anymore. He did all this for his benefit because he was never given the chance by the people back then. Thanks to his deceitful ways and the selection of a running mate with the perfect last name, he won the election.

Too bad, though, that after fooling us once he found another perfect running mate that allowed him to fool us twice! Unfortunately, Mr. Governor, you cannot and we will not allow you to fool us a third time. You might have fooled or forced yourself upon the Republican Party as their leader to align yourself with the majority and use them again to

Good Samaritan

On Wednesday I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Kanis Sinounou, whom many in the community now know as the Good Samaritan who stopped the attempted robbery of two tourists recently and helped authorities apprehend the suspect. I think we all agree he did a good deed.

I asked Mr. Sinounou, and he is interested in finding a job. I got his blessing to write this letter and let potential employers know his experience as a bus driver and on a bottled water production line. He still needs his GED. He can be reached at 234-9094 (home) or 789-4392 (cell) and would be happy to send any potential employer his resume or come in for a job interview.

How well can you know a person from a news story and a 10-minute conversation? I can't honestly say I know Mr. Sinounou well, but first impressions count a lot, and actions speak louder than words. He seems like a humble guy who would appreciate a chance. Employers, why not give him a call to see if he might fit on your team?

Catherine Perry
Koblerville, Saipan

your advantage but you cannot fool the people this time. The whole Commonwealth knows what and who you are—a user and abuser of the majority to benefit the few close to you.

Unfortunately, people are not as ignorant as you think they are but they just keep giving you the benefit of the doubt and a chance to prove yourself over and over again because “hope” is all we have. What is overwhelming is your misconstrued idea that you have supporters. They are there because it is a Republican rally. They are obligated to be there and they must support, whether they like it or not. The question is...is it worth it? So with this letter, I want to make my prediction of

what will occur in the days to come. I sure hope I am wrong because I am no fortuneteller but at the pace and route we are headed—because of our leaders—best wishes and luck to everyone.

Presently, my disappointment lies with the House leadership. They are so easily manipulated and controlled by this governor that they no longer have a mind of their own. They cannot even speak their minds! The only thing they can express is “no comment.” They might as well call the speaker the Listener of the House and change the House “leadership” to “followers” instead. They are not our representatives. The purpose of having three branches in government is defeated since at this moment they fall under the Supreme Legislative Executive Administration under the dictatorship and rule of the governor. This ruler will

not allow participation in any joint or committee meetings because this will be how the governor punishes us, by using them to accomplish a government shutdown. In other words, temporary terminations but they probably don't count pennies like I do, so what is a few weeks without pay for them?

So we do not have a retirement plan that is superb and beneficial anymore. Do you think the governor really cares? Does the governor need a retirement plan? He is set in life, mansions everywhere, bank accounts overflowing. Who do you have at your side? A future monthly Social Security pension? Well, that is about four times less and available at the earliest at age 62 with reductions. I think we were screwed but too bad we allowed it and continue to allow it, it's quite sad. I guess he does get the last laugh and

he is probably laughing right now, thanks to the do-nothing mentality. A beneficial retirement plan is gone, a 25-year liability incurred where CUC might lose its assets and us the CNMI because Saipan Development is waiting to collect. We have been sold and it was not even to the highest bidder, just another of Fitial's friends.

In closing, I just want to express a big congratulations to those who participated at the roadside waving in support of impeachment. Well done! The silent majority supports you and we admire your bravery and courage for standing up to the opposition. In numbers they may be the 99 percent but that is just the perspiration part. You, on the other hand, have all the inspiration for the betterment of our people and a greater CNMI. I speak of perspiration and mean it

literally because I can imagine them sweating while they were being scrutinized under the microscope. All that sweat and the overly stressful nice face they must maintain just so they may be allowed to run under the Republican banner and contribute to his legacy. How sad. The only move that is full of politics, plus some, is the governor's. Then they have the audacity to say “United We Stand” and that “Impeachment is not the solution.” Weren't they all sitting in that picture? He talks the talk but cannot walk the walk. He cannot even remain standing. Live up to your motto, you've already abandoned Better Times and Let it BE. I hope you're not adopting United We Stand while sitting and doing nothing.

Karla Mareham
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

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 <p>2005 Ford Five Hundred SE STOCK # 5C104810 \$10,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2004 Honda Accord LX STOCK # 4A07149 \$12,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2006 Kia Sorento LX 4WD STOCK # 65602982 \$12,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>2004 Honda Accord LX STOCK # 4A068311 \$12,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2010 Honda Civic LX STOCK # AE035279 \$16,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2010 Kia Soul Sport STOCK # A7117737 \$16,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>2008 Kia Rio LX STOCK # A6673680 \$12,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2008 Mazda RX8 STOCK # 80214167 \$16,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2008 Nissan Quest S STOCK # 8N111101 \$18,995^{00*}</p>
 <p>Mona Mengloi Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562</p>	 <p>2009 Nissan Altima S STOCK # 9C188438 \$18,995^{00*}</p>	 <p>2008 Ford Ranger Sport 4x4 STOCK # 8PA43917 \$21,995^{00*}</p>

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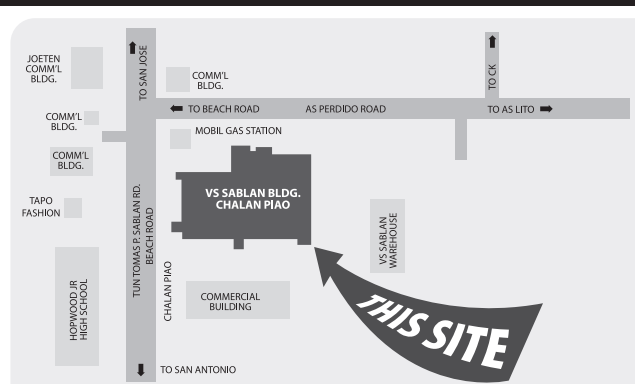
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At our **Chalan Kanoa Building**, we have an Apartment Unit available for rent on the 2nd and 3rd floor. Also available is an office space above Bank of Saipan (2nd floor). Call to see and inquire about monthly rent prices. **Very Affordable.**

At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 700 sq ft to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35 cents per square foot.**

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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebecham80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-9285 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office**
Guma' Hustisia · limwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950 · T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

LAW CLERK

For the Chambers of Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, CNMI Superior Court

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo in the Superior Court on Saipan which involves the performance of professional legal research and other related administrative work in the preparation of memoranda, opinions, or orders. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Reviews, studies, searches, and annotates laws, court decisions, documents, opinions, briefs and related legal authorities;
- Researches the law for oral motions made during trials;
- Prepares briefs, legal memoranda, statement of issues involved, opinions and judgment for review by the judge, including appropriate suggestions or recommendations to the judge;
- Prepares jury instructions;
- Compiles references on laws and decisions necessary for legal determinations;
- Confers with the judge concerning legal questions, construction of documents and granting of orders;
- Attends court proceedings to hear oral arguments and record necessary case information; and
- Completes other duties assigned by the judge.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a law degree from an accredited ABA law school. Strong legal research and writing skills are essential. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be \$45,000 - \$50,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, resume certified copy of law school transcript, writing sample, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



Century Insurance

Our company, Century Insurance Company (Guam) Ltd., is currently in need of the following positions with the following requirements:

Vice President and Chief Underwriting Officer

The successful candidate will lead the efforts to set and direct the underwriting procedures and practices and be involved with coordinating rate setting, underwriting, reinsurance placement and strategic direction of the operations across Guam, CNMI and other territories where the company has operations and exposure. Success at establishing and guiding underwriting staff as well as establishing new products for the company and for clients of the company is imperative.

Vice President and Chief Claims Officer

The successful candidate will lead the efforts to set and direct the claims procedures and practices and be involved with coordinating loss adjusting and claims staff internally and externally across Guam, CNMI and other territories where the company has operations and exposure. Success at establishing and guiding claims staff as well as establishing effective risk management for the company and for clients of the company is key to the candidacy.

Both positions require: BS/BA business management or advanced degree in an insurance or related field with 10-15 years progressive P&C underwriting/claims management experience across all personal lines and commercial lines insurance products, NAIC regulations and AM Best requirements.

These positions are based in Guam and would require travel throughout the region.

Interested applicants may send their resume to: hr@centuryinsurancegroup.net. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than September 30, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

CNMI Marshal Service Division attends US Marshal training

A four-day training symposium sponsored by the Pacific Judicial Council on U.S. Marshal Procedures and Court Security was held from Aug. 20 to 23 under auspices at the U.S. District Court in Guam.

Pacific Judicial Council president F. Philip Carbullido opened the sessions led by U.S. Marshal Frank Leon Guerrero. Twenty-five court security personnel from throughout the Pacific Region, including CNMI Marshal Service Division members Chief Marshal Anthony Benavente and deputy marshals Jesus Santos, Juan Atalig, Cindy Serrano, Benusto Lisua, and Anthony Atalig attended the training.

In addition to receiving an overview of the latest in courthouse security, participants at-

tended classes including Prisoners in Court, Officer Survival & Defense Tactics, Airborne/Blood-borne Pathogens, Prisoner Search and Restraints, and Threat Management and Use of Deadly Force.

Presenters included U.S. Marshal Frank Leon Guerrero, Judiciary of Guam; Marshal Edward Toves, Captain Joey Terlaje, and U.S. Senior Inspectors Rick Guzman, John Jennings, and Guam District U.S. Senior Inspector, Tania Muna.

This training was part of the Marshal Service Division's ascendency to being a fully recognized law enforcement entity pursuant to Public Law 17-41. On the way to assuming new duties and responsibilities, the division's members have made a commitment to undergo offi-

cer and firearms training and periodic recertification at the same level of professionalism as the Department of Public Safety.

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who joined the Judiciary in late 2011, is overseeing the Marshal Service Division's training curriculum. It was through the special cooperation of the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Adult Probation that the members of the Marshal Division were all able to attend the training and the security of the court house and its patrons maintained.

Deputy Marshal I Cindy Serrano, who has four years with the Saipan division, was one of four women involved in the training. She described the training as intense but highly beneficial to the performance of her duties. **(PR)**



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA board meets on Sept. 25

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2012, at 3pm in the CHC Conference Room No. 2. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, and program/project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. **(CCA)**

Free business workshops today, Monday

Under a memorandum of understanding signed between the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the CNMI Commerce's Small Business Development Association, the following free workshops will be offered today, Friday, Sept. 21, and Monday, Sept. 24.

■ How to Apply for a Bank Loan: Friday, Sept. 21, 9am to 11am

■ The Upsides of Exporting & The Taiwan Market: Monday, Sept. 24, 2pm to 3pm. Guest speaker is Steve Green.

Seats may be limited (especially Monday), so confirm a seat at (670) 233-7150. **(PR)**

Two military ships arriving today

The USS *Cowpens*, a Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruiser with 340 officers and crew aboard, will be arriving at 10am today, Sept. 21, at Charlie Dock in Lower Base. Also arriving at the same time will be the USS *McCampbell*, an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer with 380 officers and crew aboard. The USS *Cowpens* has visited Saipan on more than one occasion, while this will be the first visit for the USS *McCampbell*. **(SCC)**



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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Open Date: September 14, 2012 **Close Date:** September 24, 12

Position: (1) Manager, Sales & Mktg.

Salary: \$2,500.00 monthly

Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking, write monthly report to Head Office in Japan

Position: (1) Asst. Manager, Sales & Mktg.

Salary: \$1,850.00 monthly

Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Korean Speaking.

Position: (1) Executive Chef

Salary: \$2,350.00 monthly

Job Qualification: College Graduated / (5) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking, write monthly report to Head Office in Japan.

Position: (1) Sous Chef

Salary: \$1,850.00 monthly

Job Qualification: College Graduated / (5) Years Experience.

Position: (2) Supervisor, Front Desk

Salary: \$7.50 to \$8.00 per hour

Job Qualification: minimum AA Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience. Japanese Speaking.

Position: (1) Supervisor, Dining Room

Salary: \$7.10 to \$7.60 per hour

Job Qualification: College Graduated / (2) Years Experience. Chinese Speaking.

Position: Asst. Manager, Maintenance

Salary: \$1,850.00 monthly

Job Qualification: College Graduated/Mechanical Engineer / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (1) Accountant

Salary: \$6.00 to \$6.50 per hour

Job Qualification: AA Degree / College Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (1) Clerk, Front Desk

Salary: \$5.55 per hour

Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

Position: (8) Waitress/Waiter

Salary: \$5.55 per hour

Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience. Preferably Japanese Speaking.

Position: (3) Electrician

Salary: \$5.55 per hour

Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (5) Years Experience.

Position: (1) General Maintenance

Salary: \$5.55 per hour

Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (5) Years Experience.

Position: (2) Housekeeping Cleaner

Salary: \$5.55 per hour

Job Qualification: High School Graduated / (2) Years Experience.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I. Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495/8 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Guam bar owner, gets life sentence for sex trafficking

A bar owner in Guam was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for her involvement in a sex trafficking scheme to force young women and one juvenile girl into prostitution. Song Ja Cha was also ordered to pay \$200,000 in restitution to the victims in the case and a fine of \$10,000, according to a statement issued yesterday by Alicia A.G. Lintiacco, U.S. Attorney for the District of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

On Feb. 17, 2011, a federal jury in Guam found Song Ja Cha, 71, guilty on all 20 counts of an indictment that charged her with sex trafficking, conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, coercion and enticement to travel in interstate or foreign commerce for prostitution, and transportation of a minor for prostitution. The trial lasted eight days.

According to court documents, from 2004 through January 2008, Cha and others in the conspiracy recruited and enticed some 10 victims to come to Guam from the island of Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia. The victims were largely poor, young, and uneducated. Cha lured the young women and one 16-year-old girl to Guam by promising them legitimate employment in a restaurant or store. In actuality, Cha was the proprietor of Blue House Lounge, a bar that included approximately six VIP rooms offering commercial sex.

According to evidence presented in court, Cha and her co-conspirators compelled the victims to work in the VIP rooms for 12 to 14 hours a day for the financial benefit of the conspiracy. Upon the victims’ arrival to the Blue House Lounge, Cha stripped the young women of their passports, clothing, and identities. Cha then used a variety of means to compel the victims to engage in prostitution, including physical assaults, threats of arrest, manipulation of debt, withholding food, and restricted access to the outside world. The victims testified that they were terrified of Cha and her co-conspirators, and that Cha used the fact that police offi-

cers frequented the lounge to make the victims believe that she was “connected” and could have them arrested and jailed.

“The sexual exploitation of vulnerable individuals is an affront to fundamental rights and will not be tolerated in our country. The defendant preyed on the hopes and dreams of these young victims, forcing them into a life of prostitution,” said Thomas E. Perez, assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division. “The Department of Justice is committed to vigorously prosecuting the trafficking of human beings to uphold the rights of those held in modern-day slavery, whether for labor or for sexual exploitation.”

“Human traffickers trick, lie and coerce young women with a promise of work in a legitimate job,” said Lintiacco. “In reality, these young women lose their freedom and are horribly demeaned by the sexual acts that they are forced to perform. Cha preyed on vulnerable victims and used threats and abuse to force them into prostitution. The jury’s verdict makes clear that sex trafficking schemes will not be tolerated. We will continue to find traffickers and hold them accountable for their crimes. Today’s life sentence as argued for by the government, and ordered by the court, sends the critical message that human trafficking is a crime that violates the very core and dignity of a human being and traffickers face severe punishment.”

The Department of Justice has identified human trafficking prosecutions such as this one as a top priority.

This case was investigated by special agents of Homeland Security Investigations and the Guam Police Department. This case was prosecuted by trial attorneys Jared Fishman and Shan Patel of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division Criminal Section with assistance from assistant U.S. attorney Rosetta San Nicolas.

To report trafficking crimes, call the Department of Homeland Security Tip Line at 1-866-347-2423. **(USAO)**

ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY

- Activities at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library
- Sept. 21, 2012, Friday:
 - Eagle Books Read Aloud at 4pm
 - Movie Night at 4:30pm,
 - Weight of the Nation: HBO part 3 “Children in Crises”
 - Sept. 22, 2012, Saturday:
 - Cooking demonstration from 11am-2pm
 - Eagle Books Read Aloud at 2pm
 - Weight of the Nation: HBO part 3 “Children in

- Crises at 2:30-3:30pm
- Sept. 26, 2012, Wednesday
 - Eagle Books Read Aloud at 4pm
 - Movie Night at 4:30pm
 - Weight of the Nation: HBO part 3 “Children in Crises at
- Attend any of these activities and get your voucher signed. You can pick up your incentive on Sept. 29, from 7am to 12pm.
- Let’s move Marianas expo at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. **(PR)**



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Senior Vice President/General Manager (1)

Qualification: must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

Position: Cook Korean Cuisine (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

Position: Chef de Partie (1)

Qualifications: 7 Years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest orientated and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

Position: Cook (7)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of working experience and training. Must have supervisory experienced and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

Position: Kitchen Helper (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)

Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak)computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

Position: Korea Sales & Marketing (1)

Qualification: 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashiering and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

Position: Front Desk Supervisor (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)

Qualifications: Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manger, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)

Qualifications: 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

Position: Housekeeping (3)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests' property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

Position: Accountant (1)

Qualifications: 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

Position: Information Technology Technician (1)

Qualification: Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)

Qualifications: 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all Laolao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)

Qualifications: Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

Position: HVAC Technician (1)

Qualifications: 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

Position: Building Maintenance (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devises.

Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)

Qualifications: Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer's safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and mowing.

Position: Greens keeper (14)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

Position: Nursery Workers (3)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)

Qualifications: Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking throughout shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)

Qualifications: must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (2)

Qualification: high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume and application at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road. May submit resume online at: mada@laolaoabay.com
Deadline to submit Applications is on or before 5:00pm on October 8, 2012.
Saipan LauLau Development, Inc, dba Laolao Bay Golf & Resort is an
Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.

Samu't Sari



School and All Laptop Repair Desktop and Laptop Computer Repair: Free checking

Reprogram or fixing without parts change = only \$20.
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- **We fix** all problems of school laptops; screen change \$80, keyboard \$35, hard disk \$60, main board \$100, battery \$40, charger \$25
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- **We sell**: used laptops or desktops \$100 - \$500, computer parts & accessories, all electronic plugs, connections, batteries, chargers, adapters, camera monitoring system & parts, infrared ray antiburglar alarm system (can call 911), American CREE LED rechargeable flashlight and more new technological products.

COMPUTER ELECTRONICS OUTLET

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Open 12:00-9:00pm Tel: (670) 898-6889

 PSS Laptop Repair	 Cree LED T6 1000Lm flashlight
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TOURISM CLASS

The Northern Marianas College Tourism Class took a tour of the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose on Sept. 13, 2012, to learn more about the state tourism office. Also in picture are instructor Larry Lee, far right, and MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, second from right. MVA

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday to Brittney Nia Hamilton! We wish you the best and many more to come. With love, Auntie Beng, Auntie Noreen, and your cousins Rhian Napu and Tyreen Mercedes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday greetings go out to Lovenia DLC. Martin! Still looking good, Bing. We love you always! Greetings come from your family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy birthday Rayray Bosil! You're just getting younger each year! Cheers! Love from your family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Happy 85th birthday to our Tatawe, Teodoro Selepeo, the best father and grandfather ever. More beer to outlive us all! We love you always. Greetings come from your family.



Happy birthday and many more years to come to an amazing in-law, Emilisa P. Basa, shown in this picture with her significant other. We love you and we thank you for being a great mother to Hu'nonnie Norita. We wish you nothing but the best day ever! Greetings come from Mama Ern, Nacio and Ann, Meg and Ciana, BenBel and Ernici, and Hunn and Hu'nonnie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Raquela Liep Pangelinan! Enjoy your special day and may you have many more to come! We love you. Greetings come from your brothers, sister, mom, dad, friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



*One day, we will stop worrying
about inhaling second-hand smoke.
Our day starts today.*

Secondhand smoke is proven to increase the risk of cancer and heart disease in nonsmokers.

CNMI Public Law 16-46 "Smoke Free Air Act of 2008" states that no smoking is allowed in public places.*

Thank you for not smoking.



Cessation classes start on October 1 to November 5, 2012 and meet every Monday from 5:00 PM to 6:30PM.
For more information pls. call the DPH - NCD Bureau Tobacco Quitline at 323-QUIT (7848).



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Forten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW124FB-013

KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER REHABILITATION

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Kagman Community Health Center Rehabilitation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after September 21, 2012 at DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. However, the local Business Preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on October 11, 2012 9:00 a.m. local time at the Kagman Community Health Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on October 17, 2012 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW124FB-013". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 24, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time October 24, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 24, 2012 and must be received no later than November 02, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, November 06, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on October 29, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, in certified check, Cashier's Check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit under penalty of perjury:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit


Performance time for completion of this project is Seventy Five (75) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO, Commonwealth Health Center Corporation



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) SALT WATER OUTBOARD MOTOR ENGINE
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of two (2) Salt Water Outboard Motor Engine for CPA's watercraft Boston Whaler.

The proposal must include all costs for parts, accessories and labor in the installation of these engines including electrical components which may not be part of the engine accessories but must be installed in order that these engines may operate with maximum efficiency. Proposers are invited to inspect the water craft before submission of proposals.

The proposal shall include a factory warranty and must be able to provide maintenance and service agreement for two (2) years with ability to conduct on-site assessment and repair.

Proposers shall guarantee delivery of these engines to CPA within 60 days from closing date of this proposal and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter.

The Specifications of the Engines will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on September 4th, 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of two (2) Salt Water outboard motor engine". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, September 26th, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers. Proposers must guarantee that any or all equipment found defective at the time of delivery must replace equipment within 60 days from date of first delivery.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposal shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of the engines is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF FOUR (4) UNITS SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of four (4) units sport utility vehicles.

The proposal shall attach a factory warranty and must be able to provide 2 years maintenance and service agreement for all four vehicles.

Proposers shall guarantee delivery of these vehicles to CPA within 60 days from closing date of this proposal and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter.

The specifications of these vehicles will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on September 4th, 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of four (4) Sport Utility Vehicles" One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, September 26th, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers.


The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposal shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of these vehicles is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) MARITIME BOAT
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-010-12

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of one (1) Maritime Boat to the island of Tinian.

The proposal shall attached a manufacturer warranty and include a two (2) years maintenance and service contract on the engine, boat and accessories to be provided on the island of Tinian.

Proposer shall guarantee delivery of this boat to CPA within 60 days from closing date of this proposal and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter.

The specifications for the boat, engine and accessories will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on September 4th, 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of a Maritime Boat" One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, September 26, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers. Proposers must guarantee that any or all equipment found defective at the time of delivery must replace equipment within 60 days from date of first delivery to Tinian.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposal shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of this boat is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Business

Has US economy bottomed out? Census suggests yes

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy is showing signs of finally bottoming out: Americans are on the move again after record numbers had stayed put, more young adults are leaving their parents' homes to take a chance with college or the job market, once-sharp declines in births are leveling off and poverty is slowing.

New 2011 census data being released Thursday offer glimmers of hope in an economic recovery that technically began in mid-2009. The annual survey, supplemented with unpublished government figures as of March 2012, covers a year in which unemployment fell modestly from 9.6 percent to 8.9 percent.

Not all is well. The jobless rate remains high at 8.1 percent. Home ownership dropped for a fifth straight year to 64.6 percent, the lowest in more than a decade, hurt by more stringent financing rules and a shift to renting. More Americans than ever are turning to food stamps, while residents in housing that is considered "crowded" held steady at 1 percent, tied for the highest since 2003.

Taken as a whole, however, analysts say the latest census data provide wide-ranging evidence of a stabilizing U.S. economy. Coming five years after the housing bust, such a leveling off would mark an end to the longest and most pernicious economic decline since World War II.

"We may be seeing the beginning of the American family's recovery from the Great Recession," said Andrew Cherlin, a professor of sociology and public policy at Johns Hopkins University. He pointed in particular to the upswing in mobility and to young men moving out of their parents' homes, both signs that more young adults were testing out job prospects.

"It could be the modest number of new jobs or simply the belief that the worst is over," Cherlin said.

Richard Freeman, an economist at Harvard University, said the data point to a "fragile recovery," with the economy still at risk of falling back into recession, depending in part on who is president and whether Congress averts a "fiscal cliff" of deep government spending cuts and higher taxes in January. "Given the situation in the world economy, we are doing better than many other countries," he said.

The census figures also show slowing growth in the foreign-born population, which increased to 40.4 million, or 13 percent of the U.S. population. Last year's immigration increase of 400,000 people was the lowest in a decade, reflecting a minimal gain of Latinos after many Mexicans already in the U.S. opted to return home. Some 11 million people are estimated to be in the U.S. illegally.

Tax penalty to hit nearly 6M uninsured people

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly 6 million Americans—significantly more than first estimated—will face a tax penalty under President Barack Obama's health overhaul for not getting insurance, congressional analysts said Wednesday. Most would be in the middle class.

The new estimate amounts to an inconvenient fact for the administration, a reminder of what critics see as broken promises.

The numbers from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office are 50 percent higher than a previous projection by the same office in 2010, shortly after the law passed. The earlier estimate found 4 million people would be affected in 2016, when the penalty is fully in effect.

That's still only a sliver of the population, given that more than 150 million people currently are covered by employer plans. Nonetheless, in his first campaign for the White House, Obama pledged not to raise taxes on individuals making less than \$200,000 a year and couples making less than \$250,000.

And the budget office analysis found that nearly 80 percent of those who'll face the penalty would be making up to or less than five times the federal poverty level. Currently that would work out to \$55,850 or less for an individual and \$115,250 or less for a family of four.

Average penalty: about \$1,200 in 2016.

"The bad news and broken promises from Obamacare just keep piling up," said Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, who wants to repeal the law.

Starting in 2014, virtually every legal resident of the U.S. will be required to carry health insurance or face a tax penalty, with exemptions for financial hardship, religious objections and certain other circumstances. Most people will not have to worry about the requirement since they already have coverage through employers, government programs like Medicare or by buying their own policies.

A spokeswoman for the Obama administration said 98 percent of Americans will not be affected by the tax penalty—and suggested that those who will be should face up to their civic responsibilities.

"This (analysis) doesn't change the basic fact that the individual responsibility policy will only affect people who can afford health care but choose not to buy it," said Erin Shields Britt of the Health and Human Services Department. "We're no longer going to subsidize the care of those who can afford to buy insurance but make a choice not to buy it."

Japan posts \$9.6B August trade deficit; exports down

TOKYO (AP)—Japan posted a smaller-than-expected trade deficit of \$9.6 billion for August, as exports to Europe and other Asian countries plunged, further undermining hopes for an export-driven revival.

The 754.1 billion yen (\$9.6 billion) deficit in August was smaller than the \$9.9 billion deficit reported a year earlier, the Finance Ministry reported Thursday.

Exports in August totaled 5.05 trillion yen (\$64.33 billion), down 5.8 percent from a year earlier, while imports fell 5.4 percent to 5.8 trillion yen (\$73.9 billion).


The strong Japanese yen has bit into exports while demand has evaporated in crisis-stricken Europe. Meanwhile, the country's energy imports have risen following closures of most of its nuclear plants.

Japan has eked out small trade surpluses in some months this year but reported a record annual trade deficit for the fiscal year that ended in March.


Though the deficit for August was lower than the more than 800 billion yen that some analysts had forecast, prolonged weakness in Europe and recent friction with China, Japan's biggest single overseas market, suggest it will likely persist in coming months.

Exports to Europe sank 28 percent in August from a year earlier, to 484.9 billion yen (\$6.2 billion) while exports to Asia—Japan's biggest overseas market—sank 6.7 percent overall to 2.84 trillion yen (\$36.2 billion).

Even before a recent territorial dispute flared, sparking riots across China, exports were weakening. They fell 9.9 percent from a year earlier to 966.3 billion yen (\$12.3 billion), the Finance Ministry reported.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE


RE: Submission of Previous Month's CUC Billing Receipt

This is to inform all tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program and the New Construction/Multifamily Program that effective October 01, 2012, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) will be requiring each tenant to provide a copy of the previous month's billing receipt from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) on a monthly basis.


Therefore, for the month of October 2012, when you come in to claim your Utility Reimbursement Payment (URP) check, please have your CUC billing receipt for September 2012 ready to be submitted to NMHC. Moreover, the submission of a copy of your previous month's CUC billing receipt will be a monthly requirement. Failure to provide NMHC with a copy of your previous month's CUC billing receipt will result in NMHC holding your URP check until the billing receipt has been submitted.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Program and Housing Division at 234-6866/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp • Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
September 15, 2012

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Public Works	05/23/12 RSm-2012-X-044	Route 10 Road Project	Rota	Shoreline APC	Approved (07/16/2012)*
2. Pacific Island Club	07/03/12 SMS-91-X-25(A)	BBQ Pavilion	San Antonio	Amendment	Approved (07/16/2012)*
3. DPW	07/12/2012 SSm-2012-X-047	Road Project Improvement	Texas Road to Oleai	Shoreline APC	Under Review
4. Dr. Ahmad Al-Lou	07/26/2012 SSm-2012-X-049	Perimeter Fence	Garapan	Shoreline APC	Approved (08/09/2012)*
5. Mode Tour Corp	07/26/2012 SLRm-2012-X-050	Photographic Activities	Managaha Island	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (07/26/2012)*
6. CUC	08/07/2012 SSm-2012-X-051	Power Poles	Obyan	Shoreline APC	Approved (08/07/2012)*
7. Mr. David Dougherty	08/08/12 SSm-2012-X-052	Beach Beautification	Garapan	Shoreline APC	Under Review
8. Pacific Subsea Saipan	08/10/2012 SPIm-2012-X-053	Dry Dock	South Sea Plane Ramp	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (8/13/2012)*
9. PIC	8/09/2012 SSm-2012-X-054	Tree Trimming	San Antonio	Shoreline APC	Approved (8/13/2012)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF HAWAII,
Plaintiff,

vs.

ROSLYN C.T. DLGUERRERO and
JOSEPH A. DLGUERRERO
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 12-0040

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 12, 2012, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Sugar King II, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot 128 D 36 (formerly known as Lot 018 D 43), containing an area of 595 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00 the original of which was recorded 07 Dec 99 as Document No. 99-2896 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on **Thursday, October 11, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.**, at the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, 2nd Floor of D'Torres Building, Garapan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 11th day of September, 2012.

/s/ Sikd Soalablai, Auctioneer
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger
Tel. No.: (670)235-8060
e-mail: shinesshine2011@live.com
OR joshuaberger711@hotmail.com

Nation

Obama boosted by upbeat housing reports, new polls

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fresh signs of a national housing rebound and growing support in public opinion polls boosted President Barack Obama's bid for a new term in the White House on Wednesday as Republican rival Mitt Romney struggled to quell his video controversy.

The challenger's attempts to get his campaign back on track ran into new difficulty in the form of criticism from rank-and-file Republicans concerned about their own election prospects in the fall.

"I have a very different view of the world," said appointed Sen. Dean Heller of Nevada, taking issue with Romney's dismissive comments about the 47 percent of all Americans who pay no income taxes. Separately, Senate GOP leaders avoided answering questions about their presidential candidate at a news conference in the Capitol.

After days of virtually non-stop political damage control on issues foreign and domestic, Romney assured an audience at a Miami forum that "my campaign is about the 100 percent in America."

Earlier in the day, at an Atlanta fundraiser, Romney said: "The question of this campaign is not who cares about the poor and the middle class. I do. He (Obama) does. The question is who can help the poor and the middle class. I can. He can't."

The former Massachusetts governor spoke about 48 hours after a video emerged that showed him telling donors last May that as a candidate for the White House, "my job is not to worry about" the millions of Americans who don't earn enough to pay income taxes.

Obama spent the day in the White House, a rarity in a race with less than seven weeks yet to run. He invited democracy advocate Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar to the Oval Office, a chat between two Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Romney raised campaign cash in Georgia in advance of his appearance on a forum hosted by the Spanish-language TV network Univision in battleground Florida, his first before a public audience since the emergence of the videotape. The opening portion of the forum focused on his videotaped comments before moving on to his reluctance to clarify his immigration policy and to his support for Arizona's controversial immigration law.

Fellow Republicans have been pressuring Romney to campaign more extensively. The campaign was planning a more aggressive schedule of traditional campaign events in battleground states, including critical Ohio, as early as this weekend, a campaign adviser said. The adviser spoke on the condition of anonymity because the plans had not yet been announced formally.



Obama

After teachers strike, new doubts about implications

CHICAGO (AP)—Mayor Rahm Emanuel secured an extension of Chicago's school day and empowered principals to hire the teachers they want. Teachers were able to soften a new evaluation process and win some job protections.

As students returned to the classroom Wednesday after a seven-day teachers strike, both sides found reasons to celebrate victory. But neither the school-reform movement nor organized labor achieved the decisive breakthrough it had sought. And whether the implications extend beyond Chicago may depend on the next case having a similar cast of characters and political pressures.

Unions hoped the walkout would prove they were still relevant, and some reform groups were disappointed with the city's concessions.

At times, the contract talks seemed overshadowed by personalities, with the mayor and union leaders occasionally trading insults and questioning each other's motives.

Still, everyone involved in the dispute emerged with an achievement to trumpet: Teachers said the strike sparked an important national conversation about school reform. Union activists said it helped inspire public employee unions that have been losing ground. Emanuel declared it a boon for students trapped in failing schools.

The president of the American Federation of Teachers said the strike showed that teachers want a voice in improving schools rather than shouldering the blame for those that are failing.

"The bottom line is ... you had teachers standing up for what they need to teach and what students need to learn," Randi Weingarten said, citing concerns about school closings, standardized tests and a lack of classroom resources that are common across the U.S.

But in lots of places, the circumstances that led to Chicago's walkout don't apply. For one thing, many states forbid strikes by teachers and other public-employee unions.

Romney's comments ripple across battleground map

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Mitt Romney's offhanded comment that as a candidate he doesn't worry about the 47 percent of Americans who pay no income taxes has quickly entered the bloodstream in the presidential campaign's most hard-fought states.

His comment, in a video revealed this week, is prompting expressions of shock—but also shrugs—from Nevada to Florida to New Hampshire and the handful of battleground states

in between.

Will it sway an election expected to be close?

There was much discussion in the relatively few states that are still considered competitive, likely to decide the race. Here, as elsewhere, the question was whether Romney was showing himself to be insensitive or merely delivering the hard truth a nation at an economic crossroads must face.

People's answers could make an Election Day difference in

states where the race is tight.

"It sounds like he's leaving out half of America, if you ask me," said Gary Gabriel, an independent from suburban Columbus, Ohio, who decided in light of Romney's comments to support President Barack Obama.

But the remarks also reaffirmed the opinions of some Romney supporters.

"I worry a lot about the society we're turning into, more of an entitlement mentality," said Randy Schumaker, a Denver-

area IT manager.

It all underscored the campaign's focus on the economy. And it stoked deeper questions about voters' expectations about the government's role in Americans' daily lives.

Outrage. Nodding approval. Both followed Romney's contention that 47 percent of Americans support Obama and that they "are dependent upon government" and "believe that they are victims, who believe that government has a responsibility to care for them."

In Celebration of His New Life †LUIS PANGELINAN CASTRO

"Luis Pagan/Loya"

June 21, 1948 – September 15, 2012

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

- Wife:** †Antonia Fitipol Castro
Children: †Lorenza Fitipol Castro and †John Fitipol Castro
Parents: †Santiago Villagomez Castro and †Maria Pangelinan Castro
Parents In Law: †Albert Fitipol and †Lorenza Fitipol
Sister: †Eugenia P. Castro
Brother In Law: †Miguel Fitipol
Daughter In Law: †Joylina Kaipat Aldan

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Children, Gr grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren

- Jovita F./Bong Aguilar** (Lorraine Castro/ Francisco Villagomez (Leina); Dorraine Aguilar/ Michael Delacruz (Weihilani & Xavier); Willie Aguilar/ Kimberly Fitial; Anthony Aguilar; Kumiko Aguilar; Luisa Aguilar)
Vicente/Kazuko Fitipol (Ben Jr Fitipol; Ricky Fitipol)
Isidro/Leticia Castro (Dorisida Lynn Castro; Ignacio Castro; Isidro Castro Jr.; Dorisha Castro)
Allen Castro/Claudine Kapileo (Jonya Castro/ Jesse Rangamar; Lorrie Castro; Ayleen Castro; Aldin Castro; Elektra Castro)
Augustin Castro/ †Joylina Aldan (Toby Castro)
Crispin/Naoko Castro (Ignacio Cruz; Cristin Castro; Naomi Castro)
James Castro (Joseph Castro; James Castro, Jr.)
Viola Castro/Ernest Romolor (Antonia Remarii; Jesse Castro; Abriola Falig; Linsa Falig)
Santiago Castro/Chris Justino

He is also survived by his:

Brothers, Sisters and In Laws

- †Eugenia P. Castro, Daniel Castro and Victoria Aldan, Ruth Castro, Manases and Maryann Castro, Pedro and Antonetta Castro, Luisa Castro and Robert Blewett

He will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated every morning at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church and Holy Rosary is being prayed nightly at his residence in Paganville at 7:30 p.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, September 24, 2012. His remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel at 7:30 a.m. to his residence in Paganville. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will immediately take place upon his arrival. At 10:30 a.m., his remains will be taken to Kristo Rai Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m.. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS.

THE FAMILY



Asia

Afghan president urges peace, despite attacks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan president on Wednesday urged his nation to rally behind the push for peace negotiations with insurgents despite persistent violence, evoking the memory of a former leader who was assassinated while trying to broker talks with the Taliban.

“We should all strive for peace,” said Hamid Karzai, adding that doing so continues the mission of slain former President Burhanuddin Rabbani, killed by a suicide bomber posing as an emissary from the insurgents.

Karzai spoke at a memorial marking the one-year anniversary of Rabbani’s death, which

badly shook confidence in the chance that a peaceful resolution could be achieved.

The ceremony came a day after a suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into a minibus carrying foreign aviation workers to the airport in Kabul, killing at least 12 people, including nine foreigners.

A militant group said the attack aimed to avenge an anti-Islam film that ridicules the Prophet Muhammad. The film has sparked angry protests across the Muslim world, including in Afghanistan, after a video clip of it was posted on the Internet last week.

On Wednesday, attacks in

three different provinces killed four police, two security guards and two civilians.

The attacks come at a time when the Afghan-U.S. alliance appears increasingly shaky and many Afghans predict civil war after the majority of international forces depart at the end of 2014.

And the Afghans may have to stand on their own more quickly than previously envisioned. A rash of attacks by Afghan police and soldiers against their international counterparts has prompted the NATO military coalition to restrict joint operations with Afghan forces.

So far this year, 51 international

service members have died at the hands of Afghan forces or militants who have infiltrated them. That is more than 18 percent of the 279 international troops who have been killed in Afghanistan since the beginning of the year, according to figures compiled by The Associated Press.

Under the new NATO rules issued on Sunday, operations that mix small-sized Afghan and coalition units are no longer considered routine and require the approval of the regional commander. Previously, coalition troops routinely conducted operations such as patrolling or manning outposts with small units of their Afghan counterparts.

Japan gets cold feet on total nuclear phase-out

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s Cabinet stopped short of a commitment Wednesday to phase out nuclear power by 2040, backtracking from an advisory panel’s recommendation in the face of opposition from pro-nuclear businesses and groups.

The decision came on the same day that Japan launched a new nuclear regulatory body to replace an agency whose links to the nuclear industry reportedly contributed to last year’s disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

While not endorsing last week’s advisory panel report, the Cabinet

did vaguely agree to pursue its goals. The panel, acknowledging public aversion to nuclear power since the Fukushima accident, urged that it be phased out within three decades through greater reliance on renewable energy, more conservation and sustainable use of fossil fuels.

The Cabinet said it would only take the policy report “into consideration” and would seek public support for its recommendations. The public, in this case, includes the general population as well as the nuclear industry, other busi-

ness interests, and communities near nuclear plants that rely on them economically.

National Policy Minister Motohisa Furukawa said the focus of Japan’s energy policy continues to be the phasing out of nuclear power, although it would take time. Furukawa vowed to push for green energy and for cuts in carbon dioxide emissions.

The Cabinet’s ambiguous endorsement added to criticism that the policy revision may be aimed at winning votes in elections expected within the next

few months.

Business leaders praised the Cabinet’s perceived backpedaling.

“It seems that (the Cabinet) did not mention specific targets such as 2030s or zero percent, so I assume we can avert the problem for the time being,” said Masahiro Yonekura, chairman of the influential business lobby Keidanren. On Tuesday, Yonekura called the phase-out plan “totally unacceptable” and threatened to quit a government panel if it were adopted.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China probes protest around US ambassador’s car

BEIJING (AP)—China is investigating protesters’ harassment of the U.S. ambassador as he attempted to enter the American Embassy, and U.S. officials say Beijing has expressed regret for the incident. About 50 protesters spilling over from demonstrations at the nearby Japanese Embassy surrounded the car of U.S. Ambassador Gary Locke on Tuesday, tried to block him from entering the embassy compound and ripped the car’s flag. Video shot by prominent Chinese artist Ai Weiwei and posted to his YouTube channel showed the protesters marching to the compound entrance just as Locke was arriving, then throwing small objects at his car before Chinese security forces broke up the crowd.

Panetta gets rare look at Chinese naval vessels

QINGDAO, China (AP)—U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta got a rare glimpse Thursday inside a Chinese naval base and toured two of its ships. But most details of his visit—like much of the information about China’s military—were off limits to the media traveling with him. Instead, the reporters got beer. Chinese officials refused to let reporters stay with Panetta as he went aboard the ships, so the media were taken to the nearby Tsingtao Brewery for a tour.

Ferry boat sinks in southern Philippines; 7 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine coast guard says a passenger boat sank in the country’s south. Seven people drowned and five are missing. The boat was carrying 27 people when it went down before dawn Thursday near its destination of Bongao, the capital of Tawi Tawi province. The boat came from Sipangkot Island, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) away. The coast guard says 15 people have been rescued and the search continues for five others still missing. It wasn’t clear what caused the sinking. Monsoon rains and strong winds are buffeting large parts of the Philippines.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

FELIX BORJA VILLAGOMEZ

“LELI”

Born to Life on February 21, 1961 and was called to His Eternal Rest on September 17, 2012

In His New Life, He now Joins His:

Wife: Eufracia C. Villagomez
Parents: Felix and Cresencia Villagomez
In-Laws: Antonio Camacho; Merced & Jesus A. Limes
Brother: Freddy B. Villagomez

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His:

Common Law Wife: Jessica R. Limes
Children: Cresencia, Leeroy, Ana, Aguida, Eddie Jay, Freda & Freddy

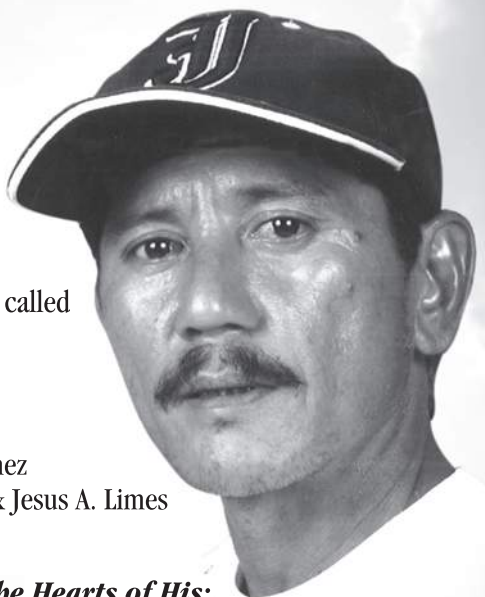
He will also be greatly missed by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Nieces, Nephews and Grandchildren

Daily Mass on Intentions are being offered at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00AM and daily Rosary at 12:00PM at the residence of Antonio DLG. Aldan and Grace V. Aldan in Fina Sisú, Haguas Lane.

On Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 7:30AM, the body will be taken from CHC Morgue to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Responso will be held at 8:00AM. The Eucharistic celebration Mass will be held at 11:00AM followed immediately by Interment Service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu’os Ma’ase - Olomwaay - Thank You

Jessica R. Limes, Children and Families



Funeral Announcement

Franklin Dela Cruz Iglecias (Ankie Boy)

Born on March 6, 1985 and was called to eternal rest on September 17, 2012 at 7:15am in Wishard Memorial Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana.

In his new life, he will now be joining our dearly departed loved ones:

Grandparents: Domingo C. & Lourdes P. Dela Cruz
Grandfather: Estanislao Palacios
Our angels: Juan Dela Cruz Iglecias
Anna Maria B. Iglecias

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Parents: Francisco Manglona Iglecias
Elizabeth Dela Cruz Iglecias
Grandparents: David S. & Matilde I. Celis
Merced S. Palacios
Siblings: Kalani Dela Cruz Iglecias
George Dela Cruz Iglecias & Willina Borja (Noah & Micah)
Byron Dela Cruz Iglecias & Ayessa Tereyama (Scott & Elli-Lou)
Matilde Dela Cruz Iglecias
Vince Dela Cruz Iglecias & Doris Castro (Colin Frank)
Travis Dela Cruz Iglecias & Macy Agoun (Aleina)

Daily mass is offered at 6:00pm, followed by the rosary at San Antonio Church. Memorial services will be announced at a later date.

Your kind expressions of support and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Frank M. & Liz DL. Iglecias and Family



World

Extremists showing up on front lines in Syria

TEL RIFAAT, Syria (AP)—The bearded gunmen who surrounded the car full of foreign journalists in a northern Syrian village were clearly not Syrians. A heavyset man in a brown gown stepped forward, announced he was Iraqi and fingered through the American passport he had confiscated.

"We know all American journalists are spies. Now tell us what you are doing here and who you are spying for," he said in English before going on to accuse the U.S. of the destruction of Iraq and Afghanistan.

"I really want to cut your head off right now," he added,

telling his men, many of whom appeared to have North African accents, that this American kills Muslims.

With the intervention of nearby villagers, the confrontation eventually was defused. But it underscored the unpredictable element that foreign fighters bring to the Syrian conflict.

Most of those fighting the regime of President Bashar Assad are ordinary Syrians and soldiers who have defected, having become fed up with the authoritarian government, analysts say. But increasingly, foreign fighters and those adhering to

an extremist Islamist ideology are turning up on the front lines. The rebels are trying to play down their influence for fear of alienating Western support, but as the 18-month-old fight grinds on, the influence of these extremists is set to grow.

On Monday, a U.N. panel reported a rise in the number of foreign fighters in the conflict and warned that it could radicalize the rebellion.

The Syrian government has always blamed the uprising on foreign terrorists, despite months of peaceful protests by ordinary citizens that only

turned violent after repeated attacks by security forces. The transformation of the conflict into an open war has given an opening to the foreign fighters and extremists.

Talk about the role of foreign jihadists in the Syrian civil war began in earnest, however, with the rise in suicide bombings. U.S. National Director of Intelligence James Clapper said in February that those attacks "bore the earmarks" of the jihadists in neighboring Iraq.

Rebel commanders are quick to dismiss the role of the foreign fighters and religious

extremists, describing their numbers as few and their contribution as paltry.

Col. Abdel-Jabbar Aqidi, a top rebel commander for the Aleppo area, told The Associated Press there were maybe 500 jihadis involved in the battle for Aleppo, while a report from the Quilliam Foundation, a London-based think tank studying extremism, estimated a total of 1,200-1,500 foreign fighters in all of Syria.

Other commanders estimated that at most, jihadis, whether local or foreign, made up no more than 10 percent of the fighters.

New French cartoons inflame tensions from prophet film

PARIS (AP)—A French magazine published vulgar caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad on Wednesday, inflaming global tensions over a movie insulting to Islam and prompting France to step up security at its embassies.

The move by the provocative weekly Charlie Hebdo followed days of violent protests from Asia to Africa against the U.S.-produced film "Innocence of Muslims" and turned France into a potential target of Muslim rage. Up to now, American government sites have drawn the most ire.

Violence linked to the amateurish movie, which portrays the prophet as a fraud, a womanizer and a child molester, has killed at least 30 people in seven countries, including the American ambassador to Libya.

On Wednesday, several hundred lawyers protesting the movie forced their way into an area in Pakistan's capital that houses the U.S. Embassy and other foreign missions.

The United States temporarily closed its consulate in an Indonesian city because of similar

demonstrations and hundreds protested the film in Sri Lanka's capital, burning effigies of President Barack Obama.

The French government ordered embassies and schools abroad to close on Friday, the Muslim holy day, as a precautionary measure. It ordered the immediate closure of the French Embassy and the French school in Tunisia, which saw deadly film-related protests at the U.S. Embassy on Friday.

The French Foreign Ministry issued a travel warning Wednesday urging French citizens in the Muslim world to exercise "the greatest vigilance," avoiding public gatherings and "sensitive buildings" such as those representing the West or religious sites.

At the same time, the country—which has western Europe's largest Muslim population—plunged into a new debate over the limits of free speech in a modern democracy.

France's prime minister said freedom of expression is guaranteed, but cautioned that it "should be exercised with responsibility and respect."

WORLD BRIEFS

Doubts over Harvard claim of 'Jesus' Wife' papyrus

ROME (AP)—Is a scrap of papyrus suggesting that Jesus had a wife authentic? Scholars on Wednesday questioned the much-publicized discovery by a Harvard scholar that a 4th century fragment of papyrus provided the first evidence that some early Christians believed Jesus was married. And experts in the illicit antiquities trade also wondered about the motive of the fragment's anonymous owner, noting that the document's value has likely increased amid the publicity of the still-unproven find. Karen King, a professor of early Christianity at Harvard Divinity School, announced the finding Tuesday at an international congress on Coptic studies in Rome. The text, written in Coptic and probably translated from a 2nd century Greek text, contains a dialogue in which Jesus refers to "my wife," whom he identifies as Mary. King's paper, and the front-page attention it received in some U.S. newspapers that got advance word about it, was a hot topic of conversation Wednesday at the conference.

29 dead, 46 injured in Mexico pipeline fire

REYNOSA, Mexico (AP)—The death toll in a pipeline fire at a distribution plant near the U.S. border has risen to 29, Mexico's state-owned oil company said Wednesday. At least 46 others were injured, and more might be missing. Juan Jose Suarez, director of the state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos company, told local media earlier in the day that at least five workers had not been seen since the blast. On Tuesday, the company, known as Pemex, said in its Twitter account that a total of seven people were unaccounted for. President Felipe Calderon said the quick reaction of emergency teams prevented a "real catastrophe," by controlling the fire before it reached the huge tanks of a neighboring gas processing plant.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

"We thank our Heavenly Father for blessing us with a loving, caring, devoted, and faithful husband, father, grandfather, and brother who forever gave us unconditional love. As our beloved †Noel has gone to join our creator in his new life in God's grace, may his spirit and memories forever live in our hearts."

We, the family of the late

†Noel Guichocho Taisacan

wish to extend our deepest sincere appreciation for all the kindness and words of comfort that you all have given us on the loss of our beloved †Noel. Your precious prayers, love, support, and condolences have helped us during our most difficult times and has also given us the courage to accept that although our beloved †Noel has gone from our lives and unto his final resting place, he will always live among our hearts. Your presence and sacrifices will forever be remembered and we will keep you all in our prayers.

*With all our love, Thank You and
Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*

**Lydia Babauta Taisacan
Lorraine T. & Antonio A. Arriola
(Anthony Noel)
Lyvonn Taisacan
Don Felix Taisacan
Families**



Science & Technology

New search engine offers better access to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress unveiled a new search engine Wednesday to help politicians, lobbyists, researchers, students and any other interested citizens find legislation working its way through the House and Senate to become new laws.

The Library of Congress says the new website Congress.gov is in beta form and will eventually replace the THOMAS legislative search system after a year of fine-tuning the new system.

The new site is more like Google, with one box to search all data. It can filter search results like a shopping site with categories of merchandise. In this case, it can narrow search results by year, by subject, by House or Senate or other factors.

Congress.gov also is mobile friendly for Capitol Hill staffers glued to their Blackberries. It was built with responsive design technology to automatically rearrange a search screen to fit on a smartphone.

This is Congress' first new search engine since THOMAS was launched in 1995 after just three weeks of development when the Internet was in its infancy.

Final testing under way for supercomputer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Final testing is being done on a National Center for Atmospheric Research supercomputer on the outskirts of Cheyenne that will be used for climate modeling and other Earth sciences.

Research is expected to begin this fall on the new computer, called Yellowstone, which has enough power to rank among the top dozen or so fastest supercomputers in the world.

So how fast is it, exactly?

The computer will run at a speed of up to 1.5 petaflops, or 1.5 quadrillion operations per second. Put another way: If you counted one number per second, it would take a lot longer than your entire

17 more top universities offer free cyber courses

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Seventeen leading universities in the U.S. and abroad will start offering free cyber courses through the online education platform Coursera, the company said Wednesday.

The announcement by Mountain View-based Coursera underscores the rapid expansion of so-called MOOCs, or massive open online courses, that are reshaping the higher education landscape.

Coursera, a for-profit company started by two computer science professors at Stanford University, will now offer more than 200 courses from 33 institutions that are open to anyone with Internet access. Officials said the website has



The new website Congress.gov is in beta form and will eventually replace the THOMAS legislative search system.

"It's like comparing a tricycle to a Cadillac," said Jim Karamanis, the library's chief of web services, before a test drive of the new site. "The web was not very advanced" when THOMAS was created.

THOMAS, named for Thomas Jefferson, gets 10 million visits each year. But the library found many users outside the political world didn't know what THOMAS was. The 17-year-old search system became slow and

lifetime or anybody else's to get all the way up to 1.5 quadrillion. Try more than 47 million years.

The roughly \$30 million IBM machine fills much of a 153,000-square-foot, custom-built facility.

The Boulder, Colo.-based National Center for Atmospheric Research already has lined up 11 initial research projects that will get time on its machine starting this fall, center spokesman David Hosansky said.

One of the upcoming projects will model air movement inside hurricanes and tornadoes. Another will examine how weather and air quality could change in North America in the years ahead.

registered 1.3 million students around the world.

The new Coursera partners include Brown, Columbia, Emory, Vanderbilt and Wesleyan universities, as well as Berklee College of Music and Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

The foreign universities added are Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of British Columbia, University of London, University of Melbourne, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Coursera said.

The new additions include five public institutions: Ohio State University, the University of Florida, University of Pittsburgh, University of Maryland and University of

outdated, and it required insider knowledge to navigate.

For example, a search of "health care reform" on THOMAS only scans bill summaries for actions in the current Congress, and it returns a funding bill among other results—not President Barack Obama's signature health care law. Searching past congressional actions is a separate function, and finding the text of a bill is three links deep in the old site.

First, the machine needs to pass its final tests. The process is more complicated than trying out a new laptop.

"These complex systems need extensive testing and analysis before we could formally accept it," Hosansky said Wednesday.

The National Center for Atmospheric Research hopes to wrap up testing and accept the supercomputer in October. A ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring Gov. Matt Mead and National Science Foundation Director Subra Suresh is scheduled for Oct. 15.

The supercomputer is 30 times more powerful than the machine currently in use at the center's Mesa Laboratory in Boulder,

California, Irvine.

"As boundaries and limitations begin to disappear in the world of higher education, Coursera is clearly an up-and-coming player on the global stage and we look forward to partnering with them," University of Florida President Bernie Machen said in a statement.

EdX, a competing online platform founded by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, announced this month that it will start giving students the option of taking proctored final exams, which will allow them to earn independently validated certificates to show potential employers or educational institutions.

Off the Wall

Man wins \$7M in popcorn lung suit

DENVER (AP)—A suburban Denver man who was diagnosed with "popcorn lung," possibly from inhaling the artificial butter smell of the microwave popcorn he regularly ate, has won a \$7.2 million verdict against various food companies.

Wayne Watson's attorney, Ken McClain, said a federal jury granted the award

Wednesday against Gilster-Mary Lee Corp., The Kroger Co. and Dillon Companies Inc. after he developed respiratory problems in 2007.

Watson previously settled claims against the flavor developer FONA International Inc., formerly Flavors of North America Inc.

Watson argued the compa-

nies failed to warn consumers that inhaling the buttery aroma could put them at risk of lung injury.

KCNC-TV in Denver reports defense attorneys had argued Watson's health problems stemmed not from popcorn but from his years of working with carpet-cleaning chemicals.

Judge weds couple then sentences groom

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Talk about the old ball and chain.

A judge sentenced an Oklahoma man to four years in federal prison on a firearm charge—then minutes later performed a marriage ceremony to wed the new inmate and his longtime girlfriend.

Thursday was a busy day for Larry Austin and Dustie Trojack. First they obtained their marriage license, then Austin pleaded guilty to the firearm charge and was sentenced by Oklahoma County Judge Jerry Bass. Shortly afterward, Bass married the happy couple who

kissed before federal authorities whisked Austin away.

Austin's attorney, Scott M. Anderson, tells The Oklahoman that Austin had helped to raise Trojack's two sons and he didn't want to lose contact with them while he was serving time.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Baby girl is born in parking lot of NH racetrack

LOUDON, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire woman and her baby are doing fine after the woman gave birth in the New Hampshire Motor Speedway parking lot. Shawna Arnold began going into labor Friday and she and her boyfriend began driving to a hospital. But when she realized she was about to give birth on the way, they made a pit stop at the racetrack parking lot in Loudon. Arnold tells WMUR-TV that she and her boyfriend delivered the baby, named Katie, in their car. An EMT at the track then came to help, and the couple and the baby were taken to a hospital. Speedway General Manager Jerry Gappens has awarded the baby two tickets to NASCAR races for the rest of her life.

Stowaway cat back in Ohio after trip to Florida

CIRCLEVILLE, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio woman says the pet cat that sneaked into her luggage for a flight to Florida has returned home safely and seems relatively unaffected by his surprise vacation in Orlando. Ethel Maze tells The Circleville Herald that Bob-Bob the stowaway spent 10 hours in a suitcase before she opened it last week. She says he was lethargic and wet from perspiration, and she initially thought he'd died. Eventually he perked up, and he spent the week in a crate at Maze's hotel. He rode in a carrier near Maze's seat for the return flight. Somehow the cat had made it through screening at Port Columbus International Airport. The man who handled the bags for Maze's group told reporters he thought he saw the bag move but loaded it anyway.

Police: Vandal with spelling problem hits Pa. car

YORK, Pa. (AP)—Police are searching for a spelling-challenged vandal who hit a central Pennsylvania woman's car with paint over the weekend. York police say a woman reported Saturday morning that her sport-utility vehicle had been sprayed with white paint. On the driver's side doors an unknown perpetrator had scrawled "bieth." Investigators say the woman also reported a motorcycle was stolen from her property. It was later recovered in Spring Garden Township. The York Dispatch reports police are seeking information on the motorcycle and the poorly spelled graffiti.

Vt. man accused of crushing cruisers charged again

NEWPORT, Vt. (AP)—A Vermont man charged with driving a tractor over seven police vehicles and crushing them is facing another charge. The Orleans County court says Roger Pion was arraigned Tuesday on a charge of driving with a suspended license. Pion already faced 14 criminal counts after

police say he drove his dad's tractor over six cruisers and a van at the county sheriff's department in Derby on Aug. 2. Police say he then drove the tractor toward downtown Newport before they stopped him. They say he had been angry over a previous arrest for marijuana possession. Pion has pleaded not guilty to the charges. He received financial support from people worldwide after his arrest. He thanked them when he left a correctional facility last month and said he had no regrets.

Good Samaritan helps Ohio man twice, 8 years apart

CLEVELAND (AP)—An Ohio man is thankful for the intervention of a Good Samaritan—the same one who helped him once before, eight years ago. Gerald Gronowski had a flat tire east of Cleveland recently when a man named Christopher Manacci stopped to help. During the encounter, Gronowski began talking about another stranger eight years before who had helped him pull out a hook that got stuck in his hand while he was fishing. They then figured out that Manacci was that same man. He had been kayaking nearby. Gronowski tells The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer that he feels it's now his job to help someone else. He also offered to take Manacci fishing, but Manacci says that considering the bad luck Gronowski has had fishing, they should go bowling instead.

NM security official tries to take gun on flight

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Albuquerque airport officials say the second-in-command of New Mexico's domestic security agency was caught trying to bring a loaded gun through a security checkpoint. State Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Anita Tallarico told Albuquerque Sunport police that she forgot to leave the weapon at home when TSA agents spotted it in her purse in a scanner Friday. KOB-TV reports Tallarico told TSA officials she was distraught because she was going to a funeral. She was cited for unlawful carrying of a deadly weapon. Tallarico's gun was turned over to city police as evidence.

Pa. woman, 72, robbed twice in a single day

MCKEES ROCKS, Pa. (AP)—Police say a western Pennsylvania woman had her checkbook stolen and as she went to the police station to report the crime, her purse was swiped. Seventy-two-year-old Harriet Sweger says she was first robbed by a woman who bumped into her and grabbed her checkbook at a grocery store. The McKees Rocks woman says she was driving to a police station when she stopped to ask for directions and had a man reach into her car and grab her purse. Police in Stowe Township, Allegheny County say they have a suspect in the purse snatching but didn't release a name.

Life & Style

Lohan charged with leaving scene of accident

NEW YORK (AP)—Lindsay Lohan was arrested in New York early Wednesday on charges that she clipped a pedestrian with her car and did not stop driving, but her publicist said he expects the allegations to be proven false.

The 26-year-old actress was

Actress in anti-Muslim film sues for its removal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An actress who appears in the anti-Muslim film trailer that has sparked riots in the Middle East is suing the filmmaker for fraud and slander, and is asking a judge to order YouTube to take down the clip.

Cindy Lee Garcia's lawsuit filed Wednesday in Los Angeles claims the actress was duped by Nakoula Basseley Nakoula, the man behind "Innocence of Muslims" who has been forced into hiding since its 14-minute trailer rose to prominence last week. She was unaware of the film's anti-Muslim content and said that the pages of the script she received had no mention of the prophet Muhammad, religion or sexual content, according to her complaint.

The lawsuit states Garcia responded to an ad and thought she was appearing in an ancient Egyptian adventure film called "Desert Warriors." Dialogue in the amateurish film was later dubbed to include anti-Islamic messages and to portray Muhammad as a fraud, a womanizer and a child molester, and it was also translated into Arabic.

"The film is vile and reprehensible," Garcia's attorney, M. Cris Armenta, wrote in the document. Her client has received death threats since the film's trailer began drawing attention, and she is no longer able to care for her grandchildren, the lawsuit states.

"This lawsuit is not an attack on the First Amendment nor on the right of Americans to say what they think, but does request that the offending content be removed from the Internet," the complaint states. Garcia's attorneys plan to seek an injunction against the film Thursday in a Los Angeles court.

YouTube has refused Garcia's requests to remove the film, according to the lawsuit. The complaint contends that keeping it online violates her right of publicity, invades her privacy rights and the post-filming dialogue changes cast her in a false light. "(Garcia) had a legally protected interest in her privacy and the right to be free from having hateful words put in her mouth or being depicted as a bigot," the lawsuit states.

arrested at 2:25 a.m. as she left a nightclub at the Dream Hotel in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, police said. They said no alcohol was involved.

Lohan was charged with leaving the scene of an accident and causing injury. She was given a ticket and scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 23.

Police said Lohan was slowly driving a black Porsche through an alley between the Dream Hotel and the Maritime Hotel on 16th Street when the accident occurred. The victim called police. He was treated at a hospital for a knee injury and released.

"We are confident this matter will be cleared up in the coming weeks and the claims being made against Lindsay will be proven untrue," Lohan's pub-

licist Steve Honig wrote in an email. He wrote the incident appeared to be "much ado about nothing."

It was the latest car accident involving Lohan.

On June 8, Lohan was involved in a crash in California that sent her and her assistant to a hospital. They were on their way to a shoot for the film "Liz and Dick" when Lohan's Porsche collided with a dump truck on the Pacific Coast Highway. Neither was seriously injured and Lohan resumed shooting later in the day.

The accident remains under investigation; police have said they are trying to determine who was driving.

The actress, best known for roles in "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls," was cleared in

May of allegations that she struck a Hollywood nightclub manager with her car. Los Angeles prosecutors refused to file charges, stating there was no evidence an accident occurred and citing doubts about the manager's credibility.

Lohan remains on informal probation for taking a necklace last year from a jewelry store without permission. She completed a strict counseling and morgue cleanup duty program implemented by a judge. She is not required to check in with a judge or probation officer, but she could face a jail term if she is re-arrested.

Lohan recently filmed "The Canyons," a film by "Less Than Zero" author Bret Easton Ellis. "The Canyons" has Lohan playing opposite James Deen, who is best known as an adult film star with thousands of movies to his credit.



Lohan

Lofty NYC art venue is not for the faint-hearted



Visitors take in the view during a media preview of "Discovering Columbus," by Japanese artist Tatzu Nishi, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012 in New York's Columbus Circle.

NEW YORK (AP)—The 810-square-foot (247-meter) "living room" offers spectacular views of mid-Manhattan. Its primary—and only—work of art is an iconic 13-foot (4-meter) statue of Christopher Columbus.

But the location, 70 feet (21 meters) above ground level, and access via a scaffold-encased staircase may not be for the faint-hearted.

This isn't a pricey New York City penthouse with extra-high ceilings. It's a quirky new art installation.

"Discovering Columbus" is the creation of Japanese artist Tatzu Nishi, who has temporarily incorporated the Columbus Monument in Columbus Circle into a piece of conceptual art.

The 27-foot by 30-foot living room—complete with couch, lamps, television and coffee table—wraps around the statue,

situated atop a six-story column at one of Manhattan's busiest intersections near Central Park.

Starting Thursday, up to 25 people at a time can enter the living room by using the stairs inside the scaffolding and enjoy a rare opportunity to see the 1892 marble figure of the great Italian explorer up close. An elevator is available for those who can't climb the stairs.

The spacious room with contemporary furnishings is so authentic looking it is easy to forget you're standing on top of a huge monument in Manhattan. Its pink wallpaper, designed by Nishi, features small illustrations of Elvis, Marilyn Monroe, Mickey Mouse, cowboys and other pop culture images.

Burgundy drapes hang on large picture windows. Visitors can sit on the purple couch, at the foot of Columbus, and

watch a flat-screen TV tuned in to CNN.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg says the piece gives New Yorkers and tourists "a chance to do a little exploring" and view the statue up close. The free installation runs through Nov. 18.

But not everyone is enthused about the artwork.

"It looks like a trailer park. The only thing missing are the pink flamingos," said John Mancini, executive director of the Italic Institute of America, which represents about 1,000 Italians nationwide. "It's an atrocious piece of art from the outside." He said he also has safety concerns with the installation.

The column was created by Italian sculptor Gaetano Russo to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage to the Americas.

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DREDD 3D

Friday		7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	7:15	9:45
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		7:15	

Cast: Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby, Lena Headey
Science fiction, Action • Rated R



Trouble With The Curve

Friday		7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05

Cast: Clint Eastwood, Amy Adams
Drama • Rated PG13



House At The End Of The Street

Friday		7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10

Cast: Jennifer Lawrence, Elisabeth Shue
Thriller • Rated PG13



DREDD 2D

Friday		4:15	
Saturday		4:15	
Sunday		4:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	

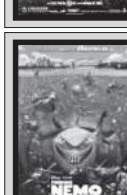
Cast: Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby, Lena Headey
Science fiction, Action • Rated R



Resident Evil: Retribution 3D

Friday		7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		7:30	

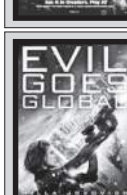
Cast: Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez
Action • Rated R



Finding Nemo 3D

Friday		7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		7:00	

Cast: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres, Willem Dafoe
Children's/family • Rated G



Resident Evil: Retribution 2D

Friday		4:30	
Saturday		4:30	
Sunday		4:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	

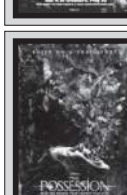
Cast: Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez
Action • Rated R



Finding Nemo 2D

Friday		4:00	
Saturday		4:00	
Sunday		4:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	

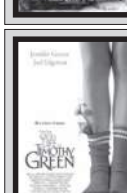
Cast: Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres, Willem Dafoe
Children's/family • Rated G



The Possession

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG13



The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton
Comedy, Drama, Fantasy • Rated PG

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Letterman: I don't hate Romney for Leno appearance

NEW YORK (AP)—David Letterman is reassuring Mitt Romney that he doesn't hate him—and getting in a dig at Jay Leno in the process.

The Republican presidential candidate said in a private speech to donors made public this week that Letterman “hates me because I’ve been on Leno more than him.”

Letterman said on the “Late Show” Wednesday that Romney and his wife are welcome on his CBS late-night show. Romney has been on three times but hasn't made any appearances since he became GOP nominee. Democratic President Barack Obama was on Letterman on Tuesday.

Letterman says he certainly doesn't hate Romney for going on Leno's NBC show. Says Letterman: “I mean, why hate a guy who's suffered through that?”

President Barack Obama talks with David Letterman on the set of the “Late Show With David Letterman” at the Ed Sullivan Theater, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012, in New York.

AP



President Barack Obama talks with David Letterman on the set of the “Late Show With David Letterman” at the Ed Sullivan Theater, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012, in New York.

Work by graffiti artist Basquiat set for NYC sale

NEW YORK (AP)—An auction house says an important early work by graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat is going up for sale in New York.

Christie's says “Untitled 1981” could set a record sale for Basquiat when it's offered Nov. 14.

The colorful acrylic and oilstick canvas depicts a skeletal figure of a fisherman displaying his catch.

The work has been in the same private collection for nearly two decades. It's been featured in every major Basquiat retrospective.

Christie's says Basquiat is being recognized as a classic of postwar American art, alongside such artists as Jackson Pollock.

Basquiat died of a drug overdose at age 27 in 1988.

Basquiat's current record sale of \$20.1 million was set for the self-portrait “Untitled” in June.

her father's legacy.

Park Chung-hee was a harsh autocrat. But he is seen by supporters as an important factor in South Korea's economic rise from the Korean War.

The original “Gangnam Style” video has 220 million YouTube views and counting.

North Korea takes notice of ‘Gangnam Style’

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Even North Korea is paying attention to PSY's globally popular “Gangnam Style” song and the South Korean rapper's memorable horse-riding dance.

The North has posted a vid-

eo on its official Uriminzokkiri website of a horse-dancing PSY character that has a photo of conservative South Korean presidential candidate Park Geun-hye's face transposed on it.

The lyrics have the character

satirically defending Park's late dictator father, Park Chung-hee.

Park is a front-runner in polls ahead of December presidential elections. But she has faced liberal criticism that she hasn't adequately addressed

Shakira pregnant with 1st child

NEW YORK (AP)—Shakira is pregnant with her first child.

The 35-year-old pop superstar posted on her website Wednesday that she and 25-year-old boyfriend Gerard Pique “are very happy awaiting the arrival of our first baby.” Pique, who is from Barcelona, is a soccer player for FC Barcelona.

No more details were available.

The Grammy-winning Colombian singer is postponing promotional activities and won't perform at Friday's iHeartRadio Music festival in Las Vegas.

Shakira said in a 2009 interview that she was ready to reproduce, explaining: “I really would like to have a big belly.”

She dated Antonio de La Rua, the son of former Argentinian President Fernando de la Rua, for more than a decade. They split in 2011.

Shakira is due to be a judge on next season's “The Voice.”

This June 21, 2011 file photo shows Colombian singer Shakira with her boyfriend FC Barcelona Gerard Pique, left, during a plenary session at the President's Conference in Jerusalem.

AP



SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

2 Nora Ephron collections coming back in print

NEW YORK (AP)—Two of Nora Ephron's early essay collections are coming back into print. Vintage Books announced Wednesday that “Crazy Salad” and “Scribble, Scribble” will be released in a single volume on Oct. 16. Both books, long out of print, will be reissued in paperback and e-books. The author and filmmaker died in June at age 71. She is known for films such as “When Harry Met Sally ...” and “Sleepless in Seattle” and for the best-selling book “I Feel Bad About My Neck.”

Ben Vereen files for divorce from wife of 36 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tony Award-winning actor Ben Vereen has filed for divorce

from his wife of 36 years. Court records in Los Angeles show Vereen filed the petition on Thursday, citing irreconcilable differences. The actor-dancer married wife Nancy Bruner Vereen in July 1976, although his filing states the pair separated in March. The 65-year-old won a best actor in a musical Tony Award in 1973 for his role in “Pippin” and he appeared in numerous films and television series. His acting credits vary from a role in the miniseries “Roots” and a guest stint on “How I Met Your Mother,” as well as a Golden Globe nominated performance in the film “Funny Lady.” Vereen is asking a court to terminate his estranged wife's ability to collect spousal support.

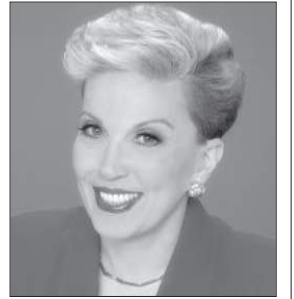
Louvre Museum unveils Islamic Art wing

PARIS (AP) — The Louvre Museum is

unveiling a new wing and galleries dedicated to the arts of Islam. It culminates a nearly €100 million (\$130 million), decade-long project coming to fruition amid tensions between the Muslim world and the West. The new dragonfly shaped building marks the famed Paris museum's greatest development since its iconic glass pyramid constructed 20 years ago. The Department of Islamic Art will exhibit much of the Louvre's 18,000 works, hoping also to foster cultural understanding. Mosaics from the Damascus mosque and a 15th-century Mamluk porch are among works spanning from 632 to 1800 A.D. Donors included Morocco's King Mohammed VI and Saudi Prince Waleed Bin Talal's foundation. Louvre director Henri Loyrette says the galleries aim to showcase “the radiant face of a civilization.”

Weekend gardener nurtures plants more than family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 31-year-old wife and mother. My husband, “Jake,” works 40-plus hours a week, while I am a stay-at-home mom. My daughter, who is almost 3, keeps me on my toes.

In the evenings and on weekends, Jake does yard work or works in the garden. I hate it because I'm with our daughter all day, every day, and he expects me to watch her while he's outside working.

I dislike yard and garden work and don't like being outside unless I am completely comfortable. I also have health/physical issues that keep me from being as active as I would like. Every weekend I feel my resentment and anger growing over this issue.

Jake says it is necessary for us to have a garden, and I agree. But why must I have all the responsibility of caring for our daughter even on weekends? I'd like it if Jake would stay in with us and give up on some of the outside activities. This is something we argue about at least once a week. What do you suggest?

SECOND TO A SHRUB IN OREGON

DEAR SECOND TO A SHRUB: While tending to the yard and the garden may be necessary, it is also very important for your husband to devote some time to nurturing his relationship with his daughter. Mention that fact to him, and while you're at it, tell him she should be at least as important to him as the tomato plants and the zinnias. You should not be saddled with all the child care responsibilities 24/7. Marriages are like gardens. If they're not given care and feeding, they will wither as yours appears to be doing.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm engaged and being married soon. I have always had very close non-romantic relationships with males. I was raised around guys, so it's natural for me.

People told me that when I fell in love with someone it would be easier to let my male friendships fall by the wayside. This hasn't been the case.

These friendships are the ones I prefer now more than ever. The conversations are better. I find men more emotionally stable than women. They also let me talk without interrupting to give their opinions as women do.

I love my fiancé dearly and he has been incredibly understanding about this, but I can tell it upsets him. I have been known to talk all night with friends, especially when I'm overwhelmed. My fiancé is hurt that I don't come to him with these issues, but he's in medical school and has his own stress.

Do I need to eliminate these friendships that come so naturally to me for the sake of my husband-to-be? Is it inappropriate for me to have close male friends after I'm married?

PREFERS MEN

DEAR PREFERS MEN: Why are you presenting the issue as all or nothing? It's not. Nor is it inappropriate for you to keep close male friendships after you marry—because that has been your lifelong practice.

However, I do think some behavior modification is in order. The first thing you should do is cut out the all-night dump sessions with these men.

For one thing, the man you marry should be your BEST friend and the person you go to first to express your concerns when you're overwhelmed. This is part of intimacy, and he may be feeling hurt and shut out because you are denying that to him.

For another, he may have concerns of his own that he'd like to discuss with you. Being on the phone all night talking to someone else is really neglectful of the man you love.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby's Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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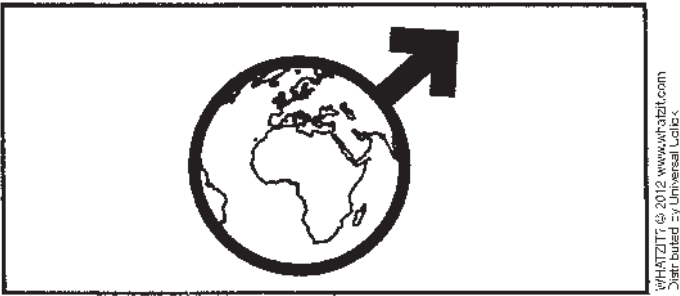
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MANAGER, PROGRAM & HOUSING

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Job Location: NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Salary: PL 35-01 thru 12 \$28,807.51 - \$49,266.21 per annum – Commensurate with education, training and experience.

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up during working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

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NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original cover letter, application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 28, 2012 **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than September 28, 2012, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn S. Kaipat, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to jkaipat@nmhc.gov.net NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

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/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

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Job Vacancy Announcement
Counsel (1)

Open: August 20, 2012
Closed: September 21, 2012
FLSA Status: Exempt

The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is looking for a counsel with a minimum of two (2) years experience. Detailed information about the requirement for the positions and employment application may be obtained at the OPA website: <http://www.opacnmi.com>.

Interested applicants must submit all the required information by mail, email, or hand delivery at the office/email addresses listed below. Submission must be marked confidential and must have the applicant's name and returned address.

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Email: jobs@opacnmi.com

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Application forms can be picked up at the Human Resources of Century Tours located at the Kanoa Resort in Beach Road, Susupe. Deadline for submission is Tuesday, September 25th, 2012.

Jeremy Lin begins workouts with Rockets



HOUSTON (AP)—Jeremy Lin is finally getting his own bed.

The 6-foot-3 point guard, who became an international phenomenon during one dazzling month with the Knicks last season, went through his first workout with the Houston Rockets on Tuesday.

Naturally, he drew a horde of media to the Toyota Center, evidence that Linsanity has plenty of life left in it.

"I don't know if I'm the face of the franchise just yet," Lin said. "I think we're a young team and we're all going to buy in. The thing about us is it's not going to be any one person that's going to carry us to where we want to go, it's going to be everybody. I think it's so early on, I'm just trying to get to know the guys."

Lin was waived by the Rockets last December, then picked up by the Knicks. He was hesitant to buy a home and slept on teammate Landry Fields' couch the night before his breakout game against New Jersey on Feb. 4.

Lin signed a three-year, \$25 million contract with Houston over the summer. He arrived on Monday—but first asked teammate Chandler Parsons if he could "crash" on his couch until he bought furniture.

He finally feels secure enough to settle down.

"I've got to get that bed in there, so I can sleep well tonight," Lin said.

The Rockets acquired Lin over the summer by outmaneuvering the Knicks in free agency.

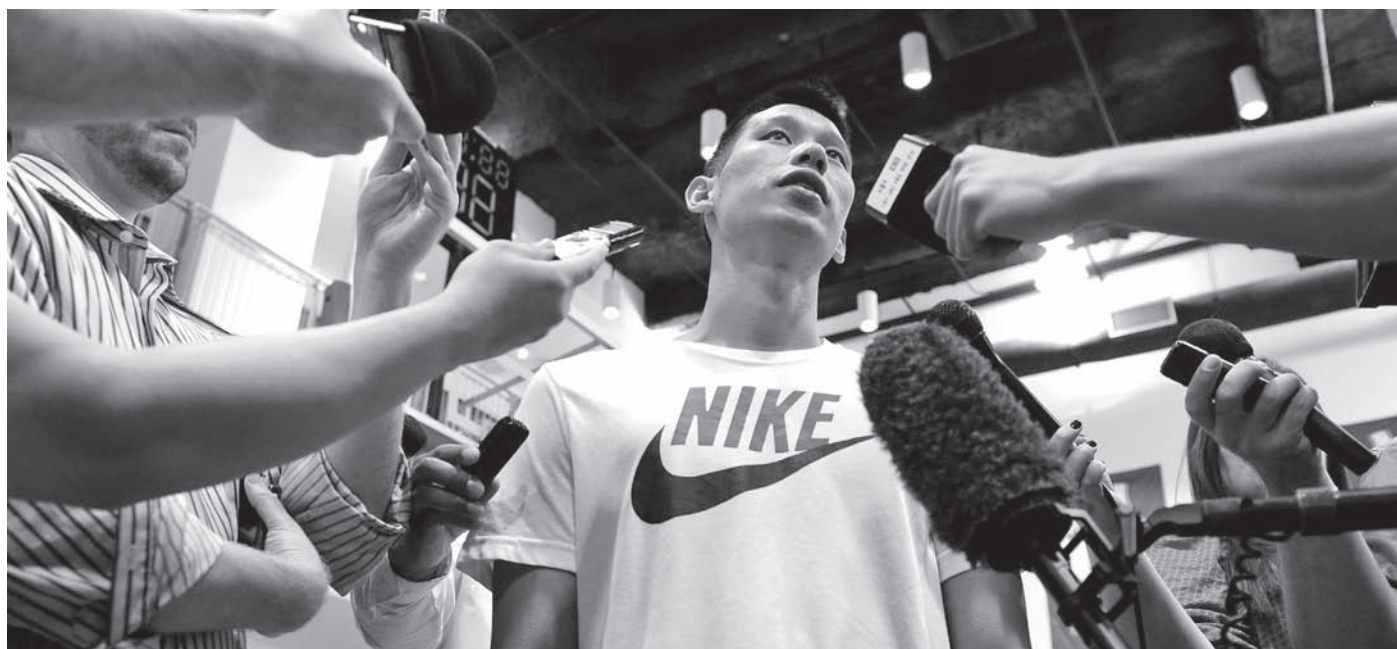
New York coach Mike Woodson said the team would match any offer to re-sign Lin and he would be the starter heading into training camp preceding this season. Lin originally signed a four-year, \$28.8 million offer sheet with the Rockets, but the team revised its offer and made it three years and \$25 million, with much of the guaranteed salary earmarked for the third year.

The extra money would've pushed the Knicks over the luxury-tax threshold in 2014-15, so New York backed off.

The Rockets held Lin's introductory press conference on a stage on the practice floor at the Toyota Center to accommodate a huge media throng. Lin is American-born, but his maternal grandmother is from China and he has Taiwanese parents, so the event also drew a large contingent of Asian media.

Lin toured Asia this summer, running a four-day basketball camp in Beijing and visiting Taiwan for the first time. He's also had the chance over the past few months to catch his breath and reflect on his whirlwind rise to worldwide stardom.

"Every once in a while, I'll take a look back and just be like, 'I



Houston Rockets' Jeremy Lin speaks with the media after NBA basketball practice, Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012, in Houston.

can't believe this is happening," Lin said. "I had one of those moments this morning, in the training room, with the big Houston Rockets logo. It was just like, I was just appreciating the fact that I get to wake up and play basketball for a living. And even the whole NBA thing, yes Houston, (but) just (to) be able to play basketball for your job, like those are things I remind myself of every day."

The Rockets, meanwhile, were just happy to get Lin back after releasing him in training camp with Kyle Lowry and Goran Dragic ahead of him on the roster. The Knicks claimed Lin off waivers two days after Christmas, and he was put at the end of their depth chart at point guard.

Lin was briefly relegated to the developmental league, then recalled when Baron Davis postponed his return from a herniated disk in his back. That's when Linsanity exploded.

The undrafted free agent out of Harvard became the first player in league history to average 20 points and seven assists in his first five games. He scored 38 points against Kobe Bryant and the Lakers one night, then drained a game-winning 3-pointer against Toronto on another, and helped the Knicks rally for an eventual playoff berth.

Lin seemed to be a perfect fit for Mike D'Antoni's up-tempo system, but D'Antoni resigned in mid-March. Lin's numbers dipped and the Knicks revealed on April 1 that Lin needed surgery to repair a meniscus tear in his left knee and would miss six weeks.

Lin recuperated in his native California and said Tuesday that he was back playing basketball within two months. He dunked for the first time since his surgery in July, continued to train and says he's shed 10 pounds since last season.

"I feel good, I feel healthy," he said. "I feel lighter. I'm excited."

The Rockets, entirely rebuilt after a flurry of offseason moves, have their practice on Oct. 1. They'll spend their first full week of training camp in

Rio Grande Valley, home of their developmental league affiliate, and will play Oklahoma City there on Oct. 10.

Lin met most of his new teammates for the first time on Tuesday. While Lin has had a most unusual NBA career already, he's still only 24 and acknowledges that he still has a lot to learn.

"Last year, I actually had a real season under my belt, where I got to play and see what works and doesn't work," he said. "Definitely, you want to lead by example, more so this year than last year, or the year before, coming in as a non-guaranteed guy. Now, there's more stability, so I need to be more of a vocal leader and hopefully lead through work ethic and example."

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For more information: **670-236-8638**
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Mariners falter again in extras, fall to O's, 3-1



SEATTLE (AP)—Adam Jones hit a two-run homer in the top of the 11th inning and Baltimore won its 15th straight extra-innings game with a 3-1 victory over Seattle on Wednesday night.

A night after the teams played an 18-inning marathon that lasted nearly 6 hours, Jones, the one-time Mariners prospect, gave Baltimore a huge boost in its race with the Yankees for the lead in the AL East. Even with New York sweeping a doubleheader from Toronto on Wednesday, the Orioles stayed just a half-game back in the division race. The Orioles moved into the top spot in the AL wild-card race after Oakland was handed a 6-2 loss in Detroit.

According to the Orioles, with information from the Elias Sports Bureau, the 15 straight extra-inning wins is the longest streak since the Cleveland Indians won 17 straight in 1949.

Jones' turned on a 3-2 pitch from Seattle's Josh Kinney (0-3) for his 30th homer.

Jim Johnson pitched the bottom of the 11th for his major league-leading 45th save.

Yankees 4, Blue Jays 2, 1st game Yankees 2, Blue Jays 1, 2nd game

In New York, Ichiro Suzuki had a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, his seventh hit of the day, to help New York complete a doubleheader sweep of Toronto that ensured they remained atop the AL East —by a half-game over Baltimore.

Suzuki made a difficult catch with the bases loaded in the eighth inning of the opener to preserve a lead for Andy Pettitte.

Suzuki had three hits in the opener batting leadoff in place of Derek Jeter, who rested his sore ankle in the first game of the day-night doubleheader. Jeter started at shortstop for the first time in a week and got his 200th hit on Ricky Romero's first pitch.

Rafael Soriano closed both games, notching his 41st and 42nd saves, the first time he saved two in one day.

The Blue Jays, playing their first doubleheader against the Yankees since 1986, were without shortstop Yunel Escobar, who began a three-game suspension for wearing eye black displaying an anti-gay slur written in Spanish during a game last weekend against Boston.

Toronto dropped to 66-81, guaranteeing it will not have a winning record this season.

With the score 1-1, Curtis Granderson was walked by Steve Delabar (4-3) to open the eighth. He moved up on a sacrifice and stole third. With two outs, Suzuki slapped an opposite-field hit to left for the lead. Suzuki stole two bases in the inning to give him four.

The Yankees had seven steals in the nightcap, their most in a game in three years.

Cody Eppley (1-2) got one out for his first win since April 27, 2011.

Romero remained tied for the Blue Jays record with 13 straight losses and walked five to up his AL-leading total to 99. It was his third game in which he allowed one run and didn't win—two no-decisions.

Adeiny Hechavarria's RBI single in the second after Phelps walked was just the 24th run Toronto has scored in



Baltimore Orioles' Adam Jones greets teammates after his two-run home run in the 11th inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners gave the Orioles a 3-1 win, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012, in Seattle.

Romero's last 13 starts.

In the opener, Pettitte (4-3) gave up four hits in his first start since a hot shot off the bat of Cleveland's Casey Kotchman broke his left fibula on June 27.

Tigers 6, Athletics 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered, Omar Infante drove in three runs and Justin Verlander pitched six scoreless innings to help Detroit.

Verlander (15-8) allowed five hits and three walks while striking out five.

The Tigers have won two straight over the A's—and 28 of their last 36 games at home—in their chase to catch the AL Central-leading Chicago.

Oakland, clinging to an AL wild-card spot, has dropped three straight and might have had a costly loss on the mound because Brett Anderson (4-2) left the game after two-plus innings with a strained right oblique.

Detroit shortstop Jhonny Peralta had an error in the fifth—snapping a 75-game errorless streak—but he helped turn a double play to end the inning. He chipped in at the plate in the home half, hitting an RBI single to put Detroit ahead 4-0.

Rays 13, Red Sox 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Desmond Jennings hit a two-run triple during Tampa Bay's seven-run sixth-inning, and the Rays snapped a four-game losing streak.

Jennings scored following his triple against reliever Alfredo Aceves when the throw from the outfield eluded third baseman Pedro Ciriaco. Four Boston pitchers walked six in the sixth, including passes to Carlos Pena and Jose Mo-

lina with the bases loaded. Luke Scott had a sacrifice fly, and Jeff Keppinger added an RBI single.

Keppinger hit a solo homer, and Pena added a two-shot off Daisuke Matsuzaka (1-6) as Tampa Bay went ahead 5-3 in the fourth.

Chris Archer (1-3) allowed three runs and five hits over five innings for the Rays, who won for the second time in nine games. It was the rookie's first major league win.

Twins 6, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Josh Willingham had four hits and four RBIs and Minnesota's Liam Hendriks finally got his first career win as Cleveland dropped into last place in the AL Central.

Willingham belted a tiebreaking two-run homer off Zach McAllister (5-8) in the fifth inning, giving Minnesota a 4-2 lead. He also had three singles.

Hendriks (1-7) pitched six effective innings to get the win in his 18th career start. Glen Perkins worked the ninth for his 14th save.

Cleveland shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera homered, but left in the seventh with a sore right wrist.

Royals 3, White Sox 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Bruce Chen pitched into the seventh inning and Alex Gordon hit a two-run double as Kansas City snapped Chicago's five-game winning streak.

Billy Butler hit a sacrifice fly in the third inning, but that was it until Gordon connected off Chris Sale (17-7) with two outs in the seventh.

Chen (11-12) scattered five hits and three walks over 6 2-3 innings to win

for just the second time in six starts.

Rangers 6, Angels 2

In Anaheim, California, Derek Holland pitched seven innings of six-hit ball and Geovany Soto hit a late two-run homer for Texas.

Elvis Andrus, Michael Young and Mike Napoli had run-scoring extra-base hits in the third inning as the Rangers chased former teammate C.J. Wilson (12-10), who flopped in his second-shortest start for Los Angeles.

One night after the Angels scored 11 runs without Albert Pujols, the Rangers dominated offensively and improved the AL's best record to 88-60 without sluggers Josh Hamilton and Adrian Beltre, who sat with injuries.

Dodgers 7, Nationals 6

In Washington, Matt Kemp scored a phantom run early, then hit a go-ahead homer in the ninth inning—right after Washington rallied with a six-run eighth—and the struggling Los Angeles Dodgers grabbed a victory for a doubleheader split that prevented the Nationals from sewing up a playoff berth.

Kemp was credited with crossing home to give Los Angeles a 6-0 lead in the fourth, even though TV replays showed the inning's last out already had been recorded on third baseman Ryan Zimmerman's head-over-heels, reaching tag of runner Adrian Gonzalez.

That extra run loomed large when the hosts—who had won the opener 3-1 thanks largely to Jordan Zimmermann's six innings of one-run baseball—wound up sending 12 batters to the plate while scoring six runs in the eighth.

Braves 3, Marlins 0

In Miami, Kris Medlen pitched eight innings of four-hit ball and the Braves won his start for the 21st straight time.

Medlen (9-1) lost the first two starts of his career in 2009. He hasn't taken a loss in any of his 26 starts since, with the Braves prevailing in the last 21 of those—making them the first team since the New York Yankees to have such a streak, according to STATS LLC.

The Yankees won 22 straight times when Whitey Ford started games from 1950 through 1953, a span interrupted by Ford serving in the Korean War.

Phillies 3, Mets 2

In New York, Ryan Howard hit a go-ahead homer with two outs in the ninth inning and the Phillies rallied for a dramatic victory.

Jimmy Rollins hit a leadoff home run but the Phillies went into the ninth with only two hits. Chase Utley worked a two-out walk against rookie Josh Edgin (1-2), filling in for ailing Mets closer Frank Francisco, and Howard launched a 93 mph fastball off the facing of the second deck in right field to give his team a 3-2 lead.

Trying for a last-gasp postseason charge after a miserable first half, the surging Phillies (75-74) won for the 10th time in 13 games. They remained four games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild-card spot.

Brewers 3, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Marco Estrada pitched seven scoreless innings and rookie shortstop Jean Segura hit a double and triple as the surging Brewers stayed in conten-

tion for a postseason berth.

Estrada (4-6) allowed three hits and retired his last 10 batters while improving to 4-1 with a 1.23 ERA in his last six starts. John Axford worked around Andrew McCutchen's leadoff home run in the ninth inning while recording his 30th save in 38 opportunities.

Milwaukee has won four straight games, seven of eight and 22 of 28. They remained 2 1/2 games behind St. Louis in the race for the second NL wild card.

Cardinals 5, Astros 0

In St. Louis, David Freese and Yadier Molina each hit their 20th home run of the season, and Lance Lynn threw 6 1-3 innings to lift the Cardinals to the win.

St. Louis now leads the Los Angeles Dodgers by two games in the race for the second wild-card spot in the National League. Milwaukee is 2 1/2 games back.

The Cardinals have won seven straight against lowly Houston. They have won three in a row overall for the first time since a four-game streak from Aug. 21-24.

Lynn (16-7), in his second start following a demotion to the bullpen, allowed three hits in a 102-pitch stint.

Reds 6, Cubs 5, 11 innings

In Chicago, Drew Stubbs hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the 11th inning and Cincinnati beat Chicago hours after Reds manager Dusty Baker left the ballpark for chest X-rays.

A team spokesman said the tests were to "rule out pneumonia." Bench coach Chris Speier brought the lineup card to home plate and there was no sign of the 63-year-old Baker during the game.

Brandon Phillips' lazy popout with two out in the 11th was misplayed by Cubs right fielder David DeJesus, allowing him to reach second. Stubbs then smoked a run-scoring single to left against Alberto Cabrera (0-1).

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 2

In Phoenix, Adam Eaton tripled to spark a three-run fifth inning and Arizona rallied to beat San Diego.

Dan Wheeler had an RBI triple, and Miguel Montero and Paul Goldschmidt added run-scoring doubles for the Diamondbacks, who have won three straight. Arizona remained 4 1/2 games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild card.

Arizona starter Trevor Cahill (12-11) went six innings, allowing two runs and five hits with four walks and four strikeouts.

GIANTS 7, ROCKIES 1

In San Francisco, Matt Cain pitched eight solid innings to earn his career-best 15th win, Pablo Sandoval homered for his first time in two months and San Francisco moved another game closer to clinching the NL West title.

Sandoval's three-run shot in the first inning off Tyler Chatwood (4-5) was his ninth homer of the season and helped hand Cain (15-5) another milestone in a season full of them. With the second-place Dodgers splitting a doubleheader in Washington, San Francisco (86-63) lowered its magic number to clinch the division to five.

Cain allowed four hits, struck out eight and walked four. Chris Nelson scored Colorado's only run on D.J. LeMahieu's flyout in the fifth.

Flags by replacements, regular refs about the same



NEW YORK (AP)—The numbers say there isn't much difference in the NFL with replacement officials. Comments from players and coaches say otherwise.

As fan outrage grows over calls and non-calls, delays in doling out penalties and indecision by the replacements, statistics show strong similarities between the number of flags thrown this year by the temporary crews and last year by the guys who currently are locked out.

The NFL knows things are far from perfect—something that could have been predicted with officials whose recent experience typically was not even at the highest college levels. But things are never perfect with the regulars, either, and the league shows no sign of being forced back to the negotiating table because of the criticism.

"We are going to continue to do everything possible to raise the level of performance of the current officials" through training tapes, conference calls and meetings, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday.

The league does that with the regular officials, too.

One point of emphasis this week will be game control and making sure players are penalized for unnecessary actions ranging from roughness penalties to unsportsmanlike conduct.

Game control and simple professionalism by the officials have become key issues this week after complaints from a number of players.

"There's no doubt the integrity of the game has been compromised not having the regular officials out

there," Giants linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka said. "We've got to get that taken care of."

Added Rams coach Jeff Fisher: "We just all hope, and I'm speaking on behalf of all 31 other head coaches, we hope they get something done. We're trusting that they will."

The Eagles' LeSean McCoy was stunned when one of the replacements told the All-Pro running back he was on the official's fantasy football team. The league prohibits its game officials from playing fantasy football.

"I'll be honest," McCoy said, "they are like fans."

What the fans seem most annoyed with is the lack of pace to games, most notably Monday night's win by the Falcons over the Broncos that dragged on past midnight. That's about the only area where, statistically, the replacements have been far inferior.

Average time of game is about six minutes longer in 2012 than in 2011, and with only one overtime game in the opening two weeks—same as last year—extra periods can't be blamed. More likely, the time it takes to properly administrate penalties throughout the game is the cause.

The league has a supervisor in the press box and an alternate official on the sideline to help in that area. But it's been a struggle.

"It's a combination of everything," said Fisher, who has served on the NFL's competition committee for most of his coaching career. "Most of them are not (from) Division I. They're all doing the best they can but it's a combination of everything:

it's the speed, it's the differences in rules. We just hope they're able to put things together as soon as they can."

The perception seems to be flags are flying indiscriminately. And yet:

■ The average number of penalties per game is down from 15.2 to 14.7.

■ On player safety calls, such as roughing the passer; unnecessary roughness, including hitting defenseless players; and, face-mask or horse-collar violations, the calls are nearly even: 75 this year, 74 last.

■ Instant replay reviews are way up, an increase of 16. But the percentage of reversals is way down: 23 this year out of 62 as opposed to 21 of 46 in 2011.

■ Defensive pass interference and illegal contact penalties are up, but only from 48 to 51, surprising because of the hubbub raised on the airwaves about the lack of such calls.

Offensive players believe the replacements are concentrating on pass interference penalties against them, not against defensive backs. The numbers: six such calls this season to nine through two weeks last year.

"It's frustrating because I think there was no offensive pass interferences called the whole preseason, so that's kind of what they've been emphasizing," said Vikings receiver Percy Harvin, who believes he was victimized by "a terrible call" of offensive interference in a loss Sunday at Indianapolis. "It wasn't just our game but a lot of offensive pass interferences called. It just seemed like they were gunning for the offensive pass interferences this week."

"It's frustrating not knowing ex-

actly what they are looking at, but we can't worry about that. We have to adjust to the game and be ready to go from there."

Where does the officiating situation go from here? No negotiations with the NFL Referees Association

Patriots sign Winslow, re-sign Branch

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The New England Patriots have signed tight end Kellen Winslow and re-signed wide receiver Deion Branch to add depth to a pass-catching group that lost Aaron Hernandez to a right ankle injury.

The announcement Wednesday came three days after the tight end was hurt on the Patriots' third offensive play of their 20-18 loss to the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday. The Patriots have not said how many games they expect him to miss.

"I just met Kellen (Tuesday) for the first time, so I'm excited to get out there and practice with him," quarterback Tom Brady said Wednesday. "Aaron has been a huge contributor for us and every time he's in there, he seems to be making plays. We'll see how it goes without him or with him, I don't know. It's just a matter of him feeling well enough to go out there and play."

Winslow was released by the Seattle Seahawks on Sept. 1 after spending the past three seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers following five seasons with the Cleveland Browns. He had 75 receptions last season and has 437 in his career since being taken with the sixth pick of the 2004 draft out of Miami.

"We'll see how Kellen fits in," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said before Wednesday's practice. "I've never

are planned, and the NFL has drawn up a schedule to use the replacements for five weeks, if necessary.

That bothers Giants defensive end Justin Tuck.

"I am not necessarily mad at the replacement officials," Tuck said. "I am more upset with the NFL for not handling this and taking care of this in due time."

coached him before, don't have any background with him, but (we) feel like he might have a chance to help us so that's why he's here.

The Patriots released Branch on the final roster cutdown after he caught 51 passes last season but kept his nameplate above his locker and his possessions inside it.

Branch said he drew interest from other teams but for family and other reasons he preferred the Patriots, although he wouldn't say if there was an understanding that New England would bring him back.

"The days I was off I was still working out," he said. "My agent was busy on the phone doing his job and I was doing my job. It was just all about the right time and the right place."

Branch is confident he'll fit right back into the offense.

"That's the goal and I'm sure the coaches are expecting it out of me and that's what I'm going to deliver," he said. "There's a couple of new plays. It shouldn't take long. It'll take a day or so. I'll be all right."

New England also re-signed linebacker Niko Koutouvides and released running back Lex Hilliard, linebacker Mike Rivera and wide receiver Greg Salas, who was obtained from the St. Louis Rams after Branch was cut.

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Mayweather told to pay \$114K in Pacquiao case

By KEN RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOXING LAS VEGAS (AP)—A federal judge has ordered boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. to pay about \$114,000 for avoiding questioning from rival fighter Manny Pacquiao’s lawyers in a defamation case.

Attorneys for Pacquiao earlier lost a bid to end the lawsuit with a more severe sanction—a default judgment for Pacquiao.

But on Monday they won more than \$113,000 in legal fees and \$774 in costs for what U.S. District Judge Larry Hicks bluntly called “Mayweather’s obviously intentional decision not to appear for his court ordered deposition.”

Pacquiao, a Filipino fighter against whom the undefeated



Boxers Juan Manuel Marquez, right, and Manny Pacquiao pose for pictures during a news conference in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2012. The boxers are promoting their fourth fight, scheduled for Dec. 8, 2012 in Las Vegas.

Mayweather is frequently measured, has alleged that Mayweather defamed him by suggesting Pacquiao used performance-enhancing substances.

Pacquiao has denied the claim. He filed the lawsuit in Las Vegas in December 2009 and has sought unspecified damages. “Calling a professional ath-

lete a cheater is the most serious charge one can make,” the lawsuit said. “Accusing an athlete of using performance-enhancing drugs—however

baseless and lacking in evidence—is toxic.”

The two boxers have never fought in the ring, and the court saga playing out in Las Vegas has been seen as an impediment to a much-anticipated bout.

Mayweather lawyer Mark Tratos in Las Vegas declined comment. Pacquiao lawyers Daniel Petrocelli and David Marroso in Los Angeles didn’t immediately respond Wednesday to messages about the court order.

News of the ruling came at the same time Las Vegas police reported handing a residential disturbance call involving Mayweather at his daughter’s mother’s house last week. No one was arrested and no criminal charges were filed in the Sept. 9 incident.

A Mayweather business entity owns the property, according to county records, and Melissa Brim, the mother of Mayweather’s daughter, lives there, the Las

Vegas Review-Journal reported. Attempts by The Associated Press to reach Brim on Wednesday were unsuccessful.

Police found no evidence of a physical altercation, Las Vegas police Officer Bill Cassell said, and no one in the house wanted to file a police report. Cassell called the case closed.

With no police report, an aide to Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson said the incident had no bearing on an unrelated domestic battery case for which Mayweather served two months this summer in a Las Vegas jail. He was released Aug. 3, and is not currently on probation.

Mayweather pleaded guilty last December to reduced misdemeanor charges stemming from a hair-pulling, arm-twisting attack on another former girlfriend, Josie Harris, while two of their three children watched. Harris and the children now live in the Los Angeles area.

UNDEFEATED

From Page 32

end. In the other semis pairing, second-seeded Lani Bartolome will duel third-ranked Angie Ito. The two players had similar 2-2 marks in the elimination, but Bartolome won in a tiebreak, as she beat Ito in their lone meeting two weeks ago.

In the women’s Class B singles, Toshiko Obata is also undefeated in six games, earning the top seed in her division. Joining her in the semis are Marylyn Montano, Jen Savellano, and Loida Ito, who is ranked fourth with her 3-2 card and will collide against Obata in the Final Four regardless of the result of her last elimination game. Montano has a

4-1 slate with one more game left, but win or lose, she will end up challenging Savellano, which finished the elimination round with a 4-2 mark.

In the women’s Class C singles, Julie Lee and Janelle Pangilinan hold identical 4-1 records to take the Top 2 semis tickets in the group. Alma Ortega, who owns a 3-1 record with one game left, may join

them in the top spot and a tiebreaker must be implemented to determine the rankings and semis pairings. Rose Lazaro will likely complete the semis cast, as she finished the eliminations with a 2-3 slate and defeated Diane Francisco, who holds a 1-3 card with one match left.

In the doubles, Choi and Malasarte will be seeded first in

the playoffs after they posted a clean 3-0 record and they will duel the tandem of Gigi Zapanta and Merlie Tolentino. The other semis pairing will have Marlene Peraja and Bartolome (2-2) colliding against the mother-and-daughter pair of Loida and Angie Ito (2-1).

Ortega and Savellano also has an immaculate slate in Class B to get the No. 1 seeding in the group. The top-ranked duo will battle the pair of either Windy Fernandez and Toshiko Obata or Zapanta and Loida Ito, who hold a 1-3 slate and will slug it out anew for the fourth and last playoff berth.

The teams of Cristy Villafior

and Elna Curate and Cheng Saturno and Marlyn Montano are also tied with their similar 2-2 records and they will collide in the other semis pairing in the women’s Class B doubles.

In the women’s Class C doubles semis, the top-ranked pair of Lee and Pangilinan (4-0) will square off against the winless duo of Lazaro and Lani Santos (0-4). In the other Final Four pairing, Arlene Naguit and Jane Tupas (2-2) will challenge Francisco and Ortega (2-2).

Semis games will be played today and this Saturday, while championship matches are scheduled this Sunday.

ROUTS

From Page 32

place in MP United’s big debut, firing five goals. Scott Kim contributed three, while John Diego Masga and Daniel Lim chipped in two apiece. Amir Abes and Ryota Ito also lit up the scoreboard for defending champion MP United.

Paire 4, Shirley’s 1

In the other boys U16 match, Joel Fruit nailed a pair of goals to list Paire FC past Shirley’s.

Fruit made both goals in the first half and he received help from Ivan Seo and Gideon Borja, who found the back of the net once to give Paire a good start in the five-team field.

Matansa Football Club completes the group and will debut

in the fall season this weekend.

U18 BOYS MP United-2 3, Tan Holdings 3

While the opening of the U15 league had lopsided results, the U18 division had close games with the first one ending in a draw.

Hall and Kim also played in MP United’s U18 squad and scored one goal each and the

team’s third goal came off a Tan Holdings’ error.

Tanapon Unsa carried Tan Holdings with his twin goals, while Thanyakorn Konkloed added one.

In the other U18 match, Paire edged defending champion MP United-1, 2-1. Match summary in the Paire-MP United-1 tiff did not indicate who scored for opposing squads.

others in a desperate move by new owners to deliver a playoff team—a move that hasn’t quite worked out.

That’s baseball, though, a game that can’t always be neatly figured out. At the same time the Dodgers were spending millions, their rivals in the Bay Area were losing their best player in Cabrera. The Giants were a game out of first place then, but now they’re running away with the NL West after going 21-9 without the leading hitter in the league.

The Yankees, meanwhile, are in danger of blowing the AL East, while the Boston Red Sox are an odd collection of players who have nothing left to play for this year.

It’s all part of the beauty of a game that stretches from the first warm days of spring to the chilly nights of fall.

The addition of two wild-card teams give fans more reasons to hope in September, and more reasons not to change the channel when football is in full swing.

Like almost every idea hatched by Selig, it was designed to make money—and this one actually works.

WILD

From Page 32

ened the game’s very integrity. While stripping Cabrera of the title would be easy enough, it would spark yet another debate over whether baseball has really conquered its drug-related demons.

Purists may object, but they should understand that Selig’s main job is not to uphold decades of baseball tradition, but to make baseball owners money. That’s why Seattle and Oakland met in the not-so-traditional season opener in Japan, and it’s why the World Series might not end this year until November.

It’s also why the Dodgers are playing in Yankee Stadium next year in June instead of October, and why the lines between the National League and American League are so blurred by interleague play that they mean nothing anymore.

Give Selig credit for doing his job well. There are new stadiums in almost every city, teams are being sold for astonishing sums, and Major League Baseball is so attractive that

ESPN doubled down on it last month with a new contract that pays some \$700 million a year.

And even the purists have to be rethinking the one money-making idea that really works—the addition of two new wild-card slots to the playoffs.

Without it, the New York Yankees might be a short losing streak away from not making the postseason at all. With it, the Baltimore Orioles have a good shot at the playoffs for the first time in 15 years.

Without it, the St. Louis Cardinals would have no chance of repeating their improbable run to a World Series title. With it, the Oakland A’s are suddenly a threat to the usual big spenders.

We may never have a day in baseball again like the final day of last year’s regular season, when after three blown saves and two walk-off wins, the Cardinals and Tampa Bay made the playoffs. But the first day of this postseason could come close, with two teams moving on and two others eliminated in the space of a few hours.

It’s a tantalizing prospect, even for baseball fans who remember the days when finishing on top of the regular season

standings was a guaranteed ticket into the World Series.

Imagine the Yankees having to jet across the country to play one game in Oakland, with the loser done for the season. Could easily happen. Something Yankee fans couldn’t have imagined when their team held a 10-game lead in the AL East in mid-July.

How about the Cardinals against the Atlanta Braves—one game, winner take all. Is there any better way for the Braves to avenge an extra-inning loss on last season’s final day that put the Cards in the playoffs?

The fear was that the expansion of the playoffs to 10 teams would take away from the division races, but the prospect of not having to play one game with the season on the line now makes winning the division even more important. It may not seem fair to players who have just battled through a 162-game regular season to have to win one game to advance, but it gives a jolt to the first day of the postseason. And until now, that buzz has been missing.

It may have also encouraged the Dodgers to break the bank for Adrian Gonzalez and

MII

From Page 32

“Although he is just new to the sport, I can see his interest in improving. He pays

MIKKY

From Page 32

community?

A: Just believe in yourself!

“I admire Mikky’s commitment to the sport. She has a strong passion for the game and always has that thirst to become

attention to instructions. He also comes on time and always ready to play. He always shows good sportsmanship and has a good camaraderie with his teammates”—**Mii’s coach Fradel Sedillo**

a better player, scratch that, to become the best player. I have seen Mikky injure herself many times in football, and yet she still has the will to go on and finish the game. Mikky has the desire to learn new things about football, from learning how to juggle to doing a bicycle kick.”—**Mikky’s coach Ruselle Zapanta**



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS					NATIONAL LEAGUE				
AMERICAN LEAGUE					East Division				
East Division					Washington	90	58	.608	—
New York	85	63	.574	—	Atlanta	86	64	.573	5
Baltimore	85	64	.570	1/2	Philadelphia	75	74	.503	15 1/2
Tampa Bay	79	70	.530	6 1/2	New York	66	82	.446	24
Boston	68	82	.453	18	Miami	66	84	.440	25
Toronto	66	81	.449	18 1/2	Central Division				
Central Division					Cincinnati	90	59	.604	—
Chicago	81	67	.547	—	St. Louis	79	70	.530	11
Detroit	79	69	.534	2	Milwaukee	76	72	.514	13 1/2
Kansas City	67	81	.453	14	Pittsburgh	74	74	.500	15 1/2
Minnesota	62	87	.416	19 1/2	Chicago	58	91	.389	32
Cleveland	61	88	.409	20 1/2	Houston	48	101	.322	42
West Division					West Division				
Texas	88	60	.595	—	San Francisco	86	63	.577	—
Oakland	84	64	.568	4	Los Angeles	77	72	.517	9
Los Angeles	81	68	.544	7 1/2	Arizona	74	74	.500	11 1/2
Seattle	70	80	.467	19	San Diego	71	78	.477	15
					Colorado	58	90	.392	27 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UCC, IDK Who still even

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Neither IDK Who nor UCC is willing to give up the solo top spot in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Women's Fall Basketball League, as they remained deadlocked for the lead after this week's games at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

IDK Who cruised to a 61-46 victory over the winless Ichiban (0-5) last Monday to improve to a 4-1 record. UCC has the same mark, as incidentally it defeated Kiss My Pass (2-3) in a similar score last Wednesday.

Negahr Rastguiy had a break-out game for IDK Who, scoring 25 points and stepping up in place of the team's main gunner, Irish Pagarao. Rastguiy made majority of her points in IDK Who's second-half breakaway.

The diminutive guard had only one field goal in the opening canto, but Anne Padilla was there for IDK, firing 8 markers for their 14-11 lead. Ichiban remained afloat in the second canto, 21-28, despite Rastguiy's 6 markers in that period. Ichiban's Shaina Santiago finished with 7 points in the first half and two of her teammates added 4 points each to keep IDK within striking distance.

However, IDK Who turned on the heat in the third period with Rastguiy scoring the team's last 6 points and matching Ichiban's total output of 10 points in that canto. Rastguiy kept going in the fourth, adding 7 more.

In last Wednesday's game, UCC limited Kiss My Pass to 6 points in the second quarter to gain command of the match and hung in there in the second half to hand the latter its third straight loss.

UCC and Kiss My Pass con-



UCC's Denise Samson pulls up for a runner during their game against Ichiban in the first round of the Kanoa women's caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

nected on two triples each in the first period, as only 6 points separated the team, 16-10. UCC then widened the gap at the break, 26-16, after Kiss My Pass made only three field goals in the second canto.

Kiss My Pass ran an improved offense in the third period, but UCC converted more baskets, including three triples in the closing minutes of that quarter to stretch the lead to 21, 53-32. UCC got enough cushion in the third thus its 8-point production in the fourth did not affect the team's chances in the game.

Rachel Abrams top-scored for UCC with her 15 points, while Jeralyn Castillo paced Kiss My

Pass with her 23 markers.

MONDAY

IDK Who 61 – Rastguiy 25, Diaz 12, Padilla 10, Arboliras 6, Atalig 4, Olivos 2.

Ichiban 46 – Pena 21, V. Bartolo 10, Santiago 8, Lumabi 5, Gatchalian 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-11, 28-21, 46-31, 61-46.

WEDNESDAY

UCC 61 – Abrams 15, Ito 11, Williams 9, Lebria 8, Alegre 6, Samson 5, Canedo 2.

Kiss My Pass 46 – Jeralyn Castillo 23, Mendoza 10, Pablo 4, Vargas 3, Race 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-10, 26-16, 53-32, 61-46.

Ganacias wins FilTaga September ace

By WALTER CEPEDAS SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Dan Ganacias came away as the FilTaga Golfers Association's September Ace of the Month winner after completion of the club's monthly event held at the Mariana Resort & Country Club last Sunday.

Ganacias held the lead at the turn with a raw 40 on the front nine holes and held off the other 16 competitors on the back side with a 44.

His 84 gross total was factored into a field low net score of 68, which earned him entry into the season-ending FilTaga Ace of Aces tournament, which is scheduled for January 2013.

He bested Jacinto Ramones who turned in a field low gross score of 82, Larry Pascual (85), and Arnold Galang who all finished in a three-way tie for second place with 71 net tallies.

FilTaga's October Ace event is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 21, however the venue is still being determined; show time



Ganacias

is set for noon with a 12:30pm tee off.

Ganacias joins January's A and B aces Richard Atalig and James Mitchell, February's Randy Tudela, March's Paul Bea, April A and B's William

Retardo and Ruben Avendano, May's Lito Mendoza, June's Adony Matutino, July's Mando Guban, and August's Nestor Siruelo.

If more than 20 golfers turn out for an event, two ace winners will be recognized as the group is divided into two separate fields.

FilTaga tournaments are held once a month usually on the third Sunday of each month. In addition to a berth into the finale event, the winners also receive a modest cash prize. A \$300 prize also goes to anyone who manages to sink a hole-in-one.

New members must pay half of the initial required annual fee (\$50), excluding monthly green fees, in order to join the club. The group uses a USGA-approved, computer-based handicap system, which is regularly updated on their website, www.filtaga.com.

For more information, contact Mike Cruz at 483-7171, Mando Guban at 483-6033, Rene Batallones at 898-3367, or Larry Pascual at 287-1233.

MBFNMI calling out for 50A players

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Organizers for the upcoming 2nd Annual Masters Basketball Federation of the Northern Marianas Islands basketball season are inviting all interested players ages 50 and above who want to participate in a potential 50A grouping.

Players who do not have a team are still welcome to register with the club and get in on the action.

Two teams have already shown interest and plenty of slots are available. MBFNMI vice chair Joe Pangelinan persists in getting enough 50A players together to make a fourth addition, but if not they will be added into the 45A field with a few roster adjustments to even out the competition.

The entrance fee to participate is set at \$10 per player, per division; team fees are set at a lump sum of \$120.

A proper form of identification, such as a valid driver's license, birth certificate or identification card, is required upon registration.

Rosters are limited to 12 players per team and everybody must play.

Opening day for the MBFNMI's 35A, 40A, and 45A age divisions is set for Sept. 30 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at 9am; all games will be played weekly in Ada Gym on Sundays.

So far, seven 35A teams, six 40A squads, and five 45A groups have expressed interest in participating this year. However, none are confirmed and league organizers are still awaiting payment.

Organizers expect to iron out most of the aforementioned un-



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Masters Basketball Federation of the Northern Marianas Islands vice chair Joe Pangelinan, seen here in action in a file photo, is inviting interested 50-and-over players to register for the upcoming season of the masters caging.

certainty on opening day.

Notably, this upcoming season comes after a lengthy break in the action for the MBFNMI as its last episode took place back in February 2011.

"We initially planned to continue right into the next set of matches in April 2011, but had to put things on hold because of the repairs being made at the Ada Gym. We apologize to players for the falling behind, but I did not want to move the league outside for fear of increased injuries to the players," said MBFNMI chair Ray Lizama over the phone yesterday.

Lizama also expressed positive expectations of the return of masters hoops, adding, "At the end of the day, the whole purpose [of the MBFNMI] is all about coming together and promoting health and fitness, and I think its safe to say that all of us could use the exercise after the long break."

For more information, contact MBFNMI chair Ray Lizama at 286-6269 or email mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com.

Interested 50A players can also contact Pangelinan at 234-6925 or 322-5756.

Bike fundraiser this Sunday



ROSELYN MONROYO
A police officer signals bikers in last year's Hell of Marianas to head to Kingfisher, which is included in the four courses of a fundraising race this Sunday.



XTERRA World-bound Robyn Wodrasek's fundraising bike race will be held this Sunday.

Registration starts at 6:30am at the Capital Hill Ballfield, while the race begins at 7am. Entrance fee is only \$10 and each biker gets a raffle ticket. Two Hell of Marianas slots and

other prizes will be raffled off.

Bikers can choose from the four courses, which are great warm-ups for the HOM.

The MTB sport course will have bikers starting and finishing at the Capital Hill Ballfield and pedaling to Wireless, Kingfisher, and Egigi. For the full course, from the softball pitch, riders will head to Wireless, Kingfisher, Egigi, down to Kingfisher again,

Egigi, and back to the pitch.

For the road bike category, the sport course will cover the softball field, Kingfisher, and back to the starting/finish line. In the full course, from Kingfisher, riders will have to go to Kagman High School before returning to the softball field.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for Wodrasek's stint in the 2012 XTERRA World Championships. The Marianas High School teacher will be Saipan's representative in the 25 to 29 age group competition of the premier event that will be held on Oct. 28 race in Kapalua in Maui, Hawaii.

Wodrasek qualified for the tournament after winning in the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championships in March. The triathlete's XTERRA World trip is made possible through the support of the following: IT&E, Powerade, Pacific Trading, Handbags, MARPAC, Marianas Resort, Restaurant 360, Shell, Joeten Superstore, Hollywood Theaters, Paradise Island Animal Hospital, and Microl Toyota. (Saipan Tribune)



Jeremy Lin begins workouts with Rockets

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Mariners falter again in extras, fall to O's, 3-1

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Undefeated players enter playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two unbeaten players in the singles and three perfect teams in doubles marched into the playoff round of the 2012 Shirley's Coffee Shop Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament after last weekend's games at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the women's Class A singles, Hannah Choi swept the round-robin elimination for a spotless 4-0 record and the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs. The top finisher will face winless Malou Mala-sarte in the semis this week-

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Toshiko Obata chases the shuttlecock, while teammate Windy Fernandez looks on during a women's Class B doubles game in the Shirley's badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Routs in opening of NMIFA fall league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One-sided victories dominated the opening games in the 2012 NMIFA Youth Fall League.

In the girls U15 division matches last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field, MP United topped Tan Holdings FC, 5-1, while Shirley's FC cruised past Paire FC in the second, 7-1.

Jan Nasia Travilla anchored MP United's debut triumph, scoring four goals, while Savannah Delos Santos made the other goal for the winning team. Tan Holdings avoided a shut-out in Week 1 of the girls U15 league after getting one goal from Krizel Mae Tuazon.



Tan Holdings FC's Tanapon Unsa, foreground, tries to keep the ball away from MP United's Enrico Del Rosario during the first half of their game in the U18 division of the NMIFA fall league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In the Shirley's-Paire tussle, Marielle Gariguez and Kristina Costales drilled two goals each for the former, while Nica Gariguez, Alexa Vergara, and Diana Maniacop added one apiece. Paire's only game in the match was courtesy of Guinevere Borja.

Matansa Football Club is also entered in the league and will have its first game this weekend after getting a bye in Week 1.

U15 BOYS MP United 14, Tan Holdings 0

MP United was also victorious in the boys U15 opener, as it clobbered Tan Holdings last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Dakota Hall was all over the

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YOUTH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Name: **Mii Junior Tekopua**
Age Group: **U15**
Team: **Shirley's FC**
Position: **Goalkeeper**
Jersey No.: **#25**
Years of Playing Experience: **5 months**
Village: **San Antonio**
School: **Saipan Southern High School**
Grade: **9**
Favorite Player or Team: **Chelsea**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: My friends invited me one time to play soccer with them. I joined their practice and enjoyed how coach does the training. I joined the team and started to play the game.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: It's a fun sport to play, it keeps me healthy, and I am able to meet new friends.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: Being chosen as the goalie of our team, I was able to attend the goalkeeping training of former pro football player Johann Noetzel.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: Playing soccer can help us avoid doing bad things, like taking drugs and stealing. We learn to listen to our coach, practice teamwork, and stay healthy.

See **MII** on Page 30



Name: **Mikky Vargas**
Age Group: **Women's U21**
Team: **Shirley's FC**
Position: **Center Defense**
Jersey No.: **#5**
Years of Playing Experience: **23 months**
Village: **San Vicente**
School: **Saipan Southern High School**
Grade: **12**
Favorite Player or Team: **Cristiano Ronaldo/Real Madrid**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: My mom encouraged me to try something different other than academics, music, and arts. As I progressed, I started to love the adrenaline rush that came with the game.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: Football is FUN! You meet new people and you learn cool tricks with a soccer ball. Other than that, it brings me one step closer to Cristiano Ronaldo.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements?

A: Development of communication skills. My position is center defense. I am the last man, or woman in my case, and being able to communicate to your team as last man is important. Other than that, taking part in off-island trips through football is another great achievement.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

See **MIKKY** on Page 30

Wild card adds some intrigue to baseball

For baseball purists, there's not a whole lot to like about what Bud Selig has done to the national pastime.

More proof of that came Wednesday when Selig said he wasn't likely to do anything about Melky Cabrera winning the NL batting title while serving a 50-game suspension for a positive drug test. He also said he has no plans to do some things he should have done a long time ago—like take Barry Bonds' name off the top of the career home run list and restore

Roger Maris as the legitimate single-season home run record holder. "You can't change records because once you get into that it would never stop," Selig said in an interview for the YES Network. "It would create more problems than it would solve."

It wouldn't, but that's not the real reason baseball won't wipe the steroid slate clean. Times are good, teams are flush, and there's no real incentive for Selig to reopen the drug scandal that once threat-

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By **TIM DAHLBERG**
AP Sports Columnist

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

